

## Caloosahatchee Connect Project Update

Fall 2021

The Caloosahatchee Connect engineering team has completed the design plans and is in the final permitting phase to construct the reclaimed water pipeline across the Caloosahatchee River. The City is also in the final bidding and contract approval phase prior to beginning construction of the reclaimed water transmission main across the Caloosahatchee River and along Everest Parkway to the Everest Water Reclamation Facility. Construction of both projects is expected to begin in mid to late fall 2021.

### Permitting Progress

Earlier this summer, the Caloosahatchee Connect environmental team completed necessary site surveys of existing burrowing owl burrow locations and submitted a permit application to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to scope and clear away inactive and vacant burrows outside of the burrowing owl nesting season so that adult owls can relocate their nests away from the project area during their active nesting season (generally February 15 through July 10). An FWC Authorized Agent will ensure there are no owls or eggs present prior to the clearing process, in accordance with permit conditions.

### Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) Progress

A submerged lands easement is being obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the portion of the pipeline that will be installed underneath the Caloosahatchee River, as the river bottom is sovereignty submerged lands owned by the State of Florida. Pursuant to Chapter 253, Florida Statutes, a Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Trust Fund Notice, prepared by the FDEP, was sent to landowners within 500' of the proposed submerged lands easement on each side of the river. The FDEP Environmental Resource Permit for the HDD under the river is pending the finalization of the submerged lands easement.

### Bidding Process

Bids for both the Reclaimed Water Transmission Main Everest Parkway project and the Reclaimed Water Transmission Main Caloosahatchee River Crossing project have been received and are currently being evaluated by City staff. During the bidding process, qualified contractors submitted their project team, relevant experience, and total projected construction cost to the City. The City is in the process of reviewing these documents prior to awarding the project. The project contract awards are expected to occur in September 2021 with construction activities on both phases of the project expected to begin shortly thereafter.



The project public information consultant is providing media updates to bring awareness about the project to the public. Public involvement activities will increase during the construction phase. More information about the project and what to expect during construction will be presented at a public information meeting expected later this fall. Details about the time, date, and location of the meeting will be forthcoming.

For more information about the history of the project or to learn more about the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) installation process, please visit the project website at [www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com](http://www.CaloosahatcheeConnect.com). You can sign up to receive email updates about the project. For questions or concerns about this project, please contact the Public Information Consultant for the project at **(239) 337-1071** or via email at [info@CaloosahatcheeConnect.com](mailto:info@CaloosahatcheeConnect.com).