



CITY OF
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July 30, 2026

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RE: Semi-Annual Report in FOLKS v. City of Marathon

To Whom it may concern:

This semi-annual update provides a detailed status report on the City of Marathon's Wastewater Effluent Disposal Deep Injection Well Project, in accordance with the litigation settlement agreement with Friends of the Lower Keys (FOLKS). The project aims to enhance wastewater management by transitioning from shallow injection wells to a centralized Class I deep injection well. Progress is tracked across six phases (Phase 1, Phase 3a, Phase 2 & 3b, Phase 4a, Phase 4b, and Phase 5) focusing on design, permitting, and construction administration. Key milestones achieved since the last update are outlined below.

Phase 1: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Areas 3, 4, and 5 Transmission Mains

This phase involves the installation of transmission mains to convey treated effluent from Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in Areas 3, 4, and 5 to the centralized deep injection well site.

1. A pre-bid meeting was conducted on March 6, 2025, to solicit competitive proposals for the Deep Injection Well Phase 1 Transmission Main Project.

2. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued the General Permit for the Piping Network on April 3, 2025, authorizing the necessary infrastructure components.
3. Four competitive bids were received, and the construction contract was formally awarded to DBE Utility Services on May 20, 2025, following a thorough evaluation process.
4. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Right-of-Way Permit was secured on June 18, 2025, enabling work within state-maintained roadways.
5. The Notice to Proceed was issued on June 23, 2025, establishing a contractual Final Completion date of January 24, 2027.
6. All required submittals, including material specifications and construction plans, have been reviewed and approved.
7. The FDOT Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Permit was issued on January 26, 2026, providing full clearance to commence construction activities in accordance with the approved plans.
8. DBE currently hosts bi-weekly progress meetings with Apex Companies.
9. On-site construction activities commenced on October 6, 2025, with early work focused on mobilization, site preparation, utility coordination, and other preconstruction activities. Installation of project signage and implementation of the approved MOT plan began on February 1, 2026, allowing construction operations within the FDOT right-of-way to proceed.
10. A Change Order was issued on March 24, 2026, to incorporate the subaqueous channel crossings at both the Robert H. Dopp Memorial Bridge and the Vaca Cut Bridge into the Phase 1 contract with DBE. This Change Order established an extended Final Completion date of October 31, 2027.
11. Construction continues to progress as planned, with the project approximately 25% complete. To date, more than 4,400 linear feet of transmission main have been installed and successfully tested, along with the associated valves and appurtenances. Construction of the subaqueous channel crossings is anticipated to commence in November 2026.

Phase 3a: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Area 6 Transmission Main

To streamline permitting and construction, Phase 3 has been divided into Phase 3a (transmission main along Coco Plum Drive from the Robert H. Dopp Memorial Bridge to

the Area 6 WWTP) and Phase 3b (transmission main along US1 from the Vaca Cut Bridge to the Robert H. Dopp Memorial bridge).

1. The FDEP General Permit for the Piping Network, covering both Phase 3a and 3b, was issued on July 18, 2025.
2. A pre-bid meeting was held on August 7, 2025, to engage potential contractors for the Deep Injection Well Phase 3a Transmission Main Project.
3. Four bids were received on September 4, 2025, and the construction contract for Phase 3a was formally awarded to Coral Construction Company on November 18, 2025, following a thorough evaluation process.
4. The Notice to Proceed for Phase 3a was issued on January 15, 2026, establishing a contractual Final Completion date of October 2, 2026.
5. All required construction submittals, including material specifications, shop drawings, and construction plans, have been reviewed and approved, allowing construction activities to proceed without delay.
6. Construction activities for Phase 3A commenced in January 2026, beginning with contractor mobilization and material procurement, followed immediately by installation of the proposed wastewater infrastructure.
7. Coral Construction continues to conduct bi-weekly progress meetings with Apex Companies and the City of Marathon to review project status, coordinate upcoming work activities, and address project-related issues.
8. As of May 29, 2026, all proposed piping, valves, and associated appurtenances had been installed and successfully passed the required testing. Remaining work was limited primarily to asphalt restoration along the roadway shoulder and adjacent bike path.
9. As of July 7, 2026, preliminary walkthroughs had been completed to identify any remaining items requiring correction prior to project closeout. Only minor items remained, primarily related to final asphalt restoration.
10. This phase has progressed ahead of the original project schedule and is anticipated to achieve final completion and closeout by September 2026.

Phase 2 & 3b: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Areas 6 and 7 Transmission Mains

Phases 2 and 3b have been combined into a single-phase addressing transmission infrastructure serving Areas 6 and 7. Phase 2 includes the transmission main from the

intersection of Coco Plum Drive and US 1 to the Area 7 WWTP. Phase 3b includes the transmission main along US1 extending from the end of Vaca Cut Bridge and down Coco Plum Drive to the start of Robert H. Dopp Memorial Bridge.

1. The FDEP General Permit for the Phase 2 Piping Network was issued on May 2, 2025, while a separate FDEP General Permit covering the combined Phase 3a and Phase 3b Piping Network was issued on July 18, 2025.
2. Following utility coordination reviews, the FDOT Utility Permit was approved on December 23, 2025.
3. The Phase 2 & Phase 3b Transmission Main Project was advertised for competitive bids on March 9, 2026.
4. A pre-bid meeting was conducted on April 2, 2026, to review the project scope, bidding requirements, and respond to contractor questions.
5. A total of six competitive bids were received on April 28, 2026. Following evaluation of the submitted bids, the construction contract was awarded to Accurate Drilling Systems, Inc. by the City Council on June 9, 2026.
6. The Notice to Proceed was issued on July 8, 2026, establishing a contractual Final Completion date of October 1, 2027.
7. The project is currently in the construction submittal phase. Required shop drawings, material submittals, and contractor documentation are being reviewed to facilitate the start of construction activities.
8. Construction activities are anticipated to commence in October 2026, beginning with contractor mobilization, MOT implementation, utility locates, and site preparation prior to installation of the transmission main.

Phase 4a: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Pumping Stations and Effluent Storage Tanks at Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7

This phase includes the design and construction of effluent pumping stations and effluent storage tanks at the Area 3, Area 4, Area 5, and Area 7 WWTPs. The improvements will provide the pumping capability and storage necessary to convey treated effluent through the transmission main network to the deep injection well site.

1. Pump selections have been finalized for Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7 based on hydraulic modeling, anticipated system demands and required operating capacities.
2. A manufacturer has been selected for the proposed effluent storage tanks at Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7. Tank dimensions, structural requirements, equipment

layouts, and associated design details have been finalized in coordination with the manufacturer, and final cost estimates have been established.

3. The FDEP final permit revision for the Area 5 improvements was issued on April 16, 2026.
4. FDEP issued an Intent to Issue the WWTP Major Modification Permit for the Area 4 improvements on July 13, 2026. Final permit issuance is anticipated following completion of the applicable public-notice period.
5. The Area 7 improvements have progressed through FDEP's final-draft and courtesy-review process. Final permit issuance is pending completion of the applicable public-notice period and is anticipated within approximately 30 days.
6. The major modification permit application for the Area 3 improvements has been submitted to FDEP and remains under review. Final permit issuance is anticipated within approximately 60 days, subject to agency review and any required revisions.
7. A City of Marathon Building Permit will be required and is anticipated to be submitted upon completion of the full drawing set.
8. The Phase 4A Pump Stations Project is anticipated to be advertised for competitive proposals in August or September 2026. Construction will commence following contractor selection, contract execution, and issuance of the Notice to Proceed; a specific construction start date has not yet been established.

Phase 4b: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for the Area 6 WWTP Facility Expansion

Phase 4b includes the design and construction of the sludge processing facility and the deep injection well pumping system at the Area 6 WWTP. The improvements will provide the solids-handling and pumping infrastructure necessary to support operation of the deep injection well system.

1. Design of the Area 6 facility expansion has advanced to the final stages and includes a new prestressed concrete treatment structure incorporating an approximately 500,000-gallon effluent holding tank, 500,000-gallon sludge digester, 75,000-gallon membrane bio-thickener tank, 122,000-gallon influent equalization tank, and two 13,000-gallon chlorine contact chambers.
2. Design of the electrical improvements at the Area 6 facility is in the final stages, including upgrades to power systems, controls, and backup generators to provide operational reliability and redundancy.

3. The FDEP WWTP Major Modification Permit for the Area 6 improvements is anticipated to be issued within approximately 60 to 90 days, subject to agency review and any required revisions.
4. A City of Marathon Building Permit will be required and is anticipated to be submitted upon completion of the full drawing set.
5. The Phase 4B Facility Expansion Project is anticipated to be advertised for competitive proposals in September or October 2026. Construction will commence following contractor selection, contract execution, and issuance of the Notice to Proceed; a specific construction start date has not yet been established.

Phase 5: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for the Deep Injection Well

This core phase encompasses the design and permitting of the Class I deep injection well, monitoring well, and associated pumping station.

1. Apex Companies, formerly operating as Weiler Engineering, prepared and issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for specialized services in design, permitting, and construction administration of the deep injection well and pumping station.
2. The RFQ was publicly advertised by the City, and Water Science Associates (WSA) was selected as the qualified firm. The contract award was authorized via City Council Resolution 2024-129 on December 10, 2024.
3. WSA's scope includes comprehensive design and permitting for the deep injection well and required monitoring well, as well as the DIW pumping station. Additionally, WSA will provide on-site professional oversight for geological logging and soil classification during well boring and construction.
4. WSA has completed the design for the DIW pumping station, which is being integrated into Phase 4b for coordinated implementation.
5. WSA has completed the updated design for the deep injection well and the associated monitoring well, incorporating the revised design parameters developed through project coordination.
6. FDEP accepted the proposed single-zone monitoring well design on October 24, 2024. The design for both wells has been incorporated into the FDEP Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit application that was submitted on April 14, 2026, for the deep injection well, which will be constructed to Class I standards, and its associated single-zone monitoring well. WSA is coordinating

with the agency to address review comments and complete any remaining minor revisions required for permit approval.

7. WSA has prepared and submitted the FDEP Class V UIC permit application for the deep injection well, which will be constructed to Class I standards, and its associated single-zone monitoring well. WSA is coordinating with FDEP throughout the agency review process and is preparing any supplemental information or revisions needed to obtain permit approval. Any additional well construction permits required before drilling will be obtained by the drilling contractor prior to commencing construction.
8. WSA currently hosts bi-weekly progress meetings with Apex Companies to coordinate design, permitting, and scheduling.

The City remains committed to timely project execution while prioritizing environmental stewardship and community engagement. All phases are progressing in alignment with the settlement agreement's timelines and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan requirements. The next semi-annual update will be provided by January 31, 2027.

Regards,



Steve Williams
City Attorney
City of Marathon