



CITY OF
MARATHON, FLORIDA
Legal Department

9805 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

January 30, 2026

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this correspondence hereby provides the Semi-Annual Report of the City of Marathon's Deep Injection Well consistent with the Consent Decree in the above-referenced case. 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 five phases, 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.



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6. All required submittals, including material specifications and construction plans, have been reviewed and approved.
7. The majority of construction materials have been delivered to the site's laydown yard.
8. 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.
9. On-site construction activities are scheduled to commence mid-to-late-February, with initial focus on site preparation and utility coordination to minimize disruptions.
10. DBE currently hosts bi-weekly progress meetings with Weiler Engineering.

Phase 3: 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 Vaca Cut 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. Design for Phase 3a (Deep Injection Well Phase 3a Transmission Main Project) was finalized, and a pre-bid meeting was held on August 7, 2025, to engage potential contractors.
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. Construction activities for Phase 3a are scheduled to begin at the same time as Phase 1 in mid-to-late-February.
6. Design for Phase 3b has been completed. This sub-phase is slated to be advertised for bid in early February 2026, in conjunction with Phase 2, to optimize procurement efficiency.

Phase 2: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Area 7 Transmission Main

This phase addresses the transmission infrastructure for the Area 7 WWTP, ensuring seamless integration with the overall system.

1. The FDEP General Permit for the Piping Network was issued on May 2, 2025.
2. Following utility coordination reviews, the FDOT Utility Permit was approved on December 23, 2025.



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3. Technical specifications and front-end bid documents have been prepared and are in the final review stage, incorporating best practices for durability and environmental compliance.
4. The project is anticipated to be advertised for bid in early February 2026, combined with Phase 3b, to leverage economies of scale and expedite implementation.

Phase 4: Design, Permitting, and Construction Administration for Pumping Stations and Effluent Storage Tanks

This phase focuses on upgrading pumping and storage facilities at multiple WWTPs to support reliable effluent conveyance to the deep injection well.

1. Pump selections have been finalized for Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7. The pump system design for the proposed deep injection well pumping station at Area 6 is currently undergoing final review based on hydraulic modeling and capacity projections.
2. Detailed design of the effluent storage tank at the Area 6 facility is progressing, with structural integrity and overflow prevention measures incorporated into the design.
3. A manufacturer has been selected for the effluent storage tanks at Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7. Coordination between Weiler Engineering and the manufacturer is ongoing to finalize preliminary design and refine budgetary cost estimates.
4. Preliminary design for electrical improvements at the Area 6 facility is in progress, including upgrades to power systems, controls, and backup generators to ensure operational redundancy.
5. FDEP has issued an Intent to Issue the WWTP Modification Permit for the effluent storage tank and pumping system at Area 5.
6. The remaining permit requests will commence upon completion of the full drawing set. Anticipated permits include the FDEP WWTP Modification Permit, City of Marathon Building Permit, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Section 10/404 Authorization for any subaqueous pipeline elements, with submissions targeted for early 2026.

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. Weiler Engineering Corporation 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.



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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 4 for coordinated implementation.
5. Based on recent project coordination meetings, WSA is reworking the deep injection well and monitoring well design to incorporate more robust design parameters. These refinements are intended to ensure the system is designed to accommodate future capacity needs, potential system expansions, and more stringent regulatory and operational requirements.
6. In parallel with the design refinements, WSA is coordinating the permitting strategy and preparing updated application materials for the required regulatory approvals, including the FDEP Class I Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit, FDEP Water-Well Construction Permit, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Permit for Monitoring Wells.

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 July 31, 2026.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Regards,

Steve Williams
City Attorney
City of Marathon