



CITY OF
MARATHON, FLORIDA
Legal Department

9805 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

September 25, 2025

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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 Degree 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. On-site construction activities are scheduled to commence in October 2025, with initial focus on site preparation and utility coordination to minimize disruptions.

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 (land-based transmission main segments) and Phase 3b (bridge crossings and subaqueous elements).

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 contract award is currently pending final review and City Council approval.
4. The Notice to Proceed for Phase 3a is anticipated in early October 2025, pending contract execution.
5. Design for Phase 3b has been completed. This sub-phase is slated to be advertised for bid in November 2025, 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. FDOT permitting drawings have been finalized and are undergoing utility coordination reviews to identify and mitigate potential conflicts with existing infrastructure.
3. The FDOT Permit application is expected to be submitted in early October 2025, following completion of coordination efforts.
4. 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.
5. The project is anticipated to be advertised for bid in November 2025, combined with Phase 3b, to leverage economies of scale and expedite implementation.



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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 are being finalized for all relevant WWTPs, including the proposed deep injection well pumping station at Area 6, based on hydraulic modeling and capacity projections.
2. Detailed design of the effluent storage tank at the Area 6 facility is actively progressing, with emphasis on structural integrity and overflow prevention measures.
3. Preliminary design for effluent storage tanks at Areas 3, 4, 5, and 7 is underway, incorporating site-specific geotechnical data and resilience features against coastal flooding.
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. Permitting activities 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 late 2025.

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.
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. Design for the deep injection well and monitoring well is nearing completion, with final refinements based on hydrogeological assessments.



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6. WSA is actively pursuing key permits, 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.
7. The FDEP permit application for the deep injection well is anticipated to be submitted before January 1, 2026, marking a critical milestone toward construction readiness.

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 30, 2026.

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

Regards,

Steve Williams
City Attorney
City of Marathon