



One Plan to Protect Many Resources

As a public servant, you understand the importance of sound financial and environmental stewardship. You seek to improve the lives of the people you represent through initiatives that demonstrate both. The Alabama Gulf Coast Regional Sewer Supply District was established to achieve these same goals. We, too, seek to better serve Mobile County by protecting land and water resources with renewed vigilance. And we aspire to maximize limited state funds to serve our citizens. After years of research and a comprehensive feasibility study, we have determined that a regional wastewater organization for Mobile County would extend our financial and natural resources. With your support, a regional wastewater organization has the potential to be far reaching, casting positive ripple effects far into the future.



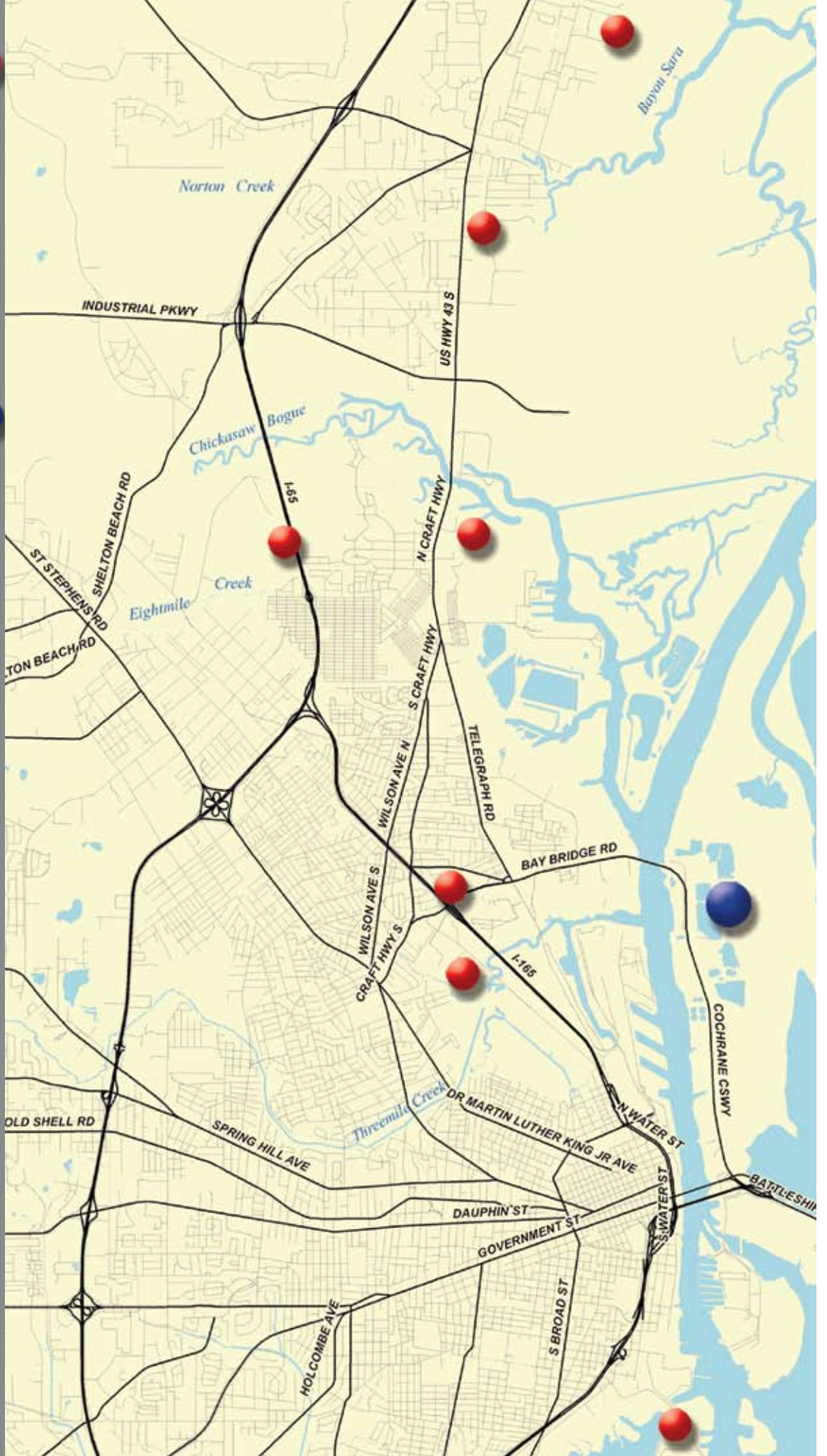
Overview

The Alabama Gulf Coast Regional Sewer Supply District was formed in 2007 to provide a regional wastewater system to serve the citizens of Mobile County. As economic conditions tighten, it makes sense for water and wastewater treatment providers to join together in a cooperative effort to meet the growing infrastructure needs of the Mobile area. Through inter-governmental cooperation, a regional organization provides a united voice on funding requests and smoother project management. A regional effort also offers greater protection for our coastal environment by improving water quality within local tributary streams. Founding members of the organization, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) and the Utilities Board of the City of Chickasaw, welcome the participation of other sewer utilities as they develop reliable, cost-effective wastewater treatment to support the long-term needs of the region.



Existing WWTP

Regional Facility





History

The feasibility of a regional wastewater facility was first introduced during a conference with Congressman H. L. Callahan in Washington D.C. in 2001. A subsequent visit to the Southern California Metropolitan Water District led to continuing discussions with the former Congressman and his successor Congressman Jo Bonner, 1st Congressional District, Alabama. Both men encouraged the development of a regional facility to better utilize limited federal funds and serve a greater number of people.

A feasibility study funded by a Special Appropriations Project Program Grant totaling \$1,025,090 and administered by U.S. EPA Region IV in Atlanta followed. The grant included a matching contribution of \$434,590 which was paid by the study members: the Utilities Board of the City of Chickasaw and the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile, also known as MAWSS. Study results confirmed the advantages of a regional wastewater organization and reviewed potential facility sites.

The Alabama Gulf Coast Regional Sewer Supply District was incorporated in November 2007 under Alabama Code 11-89-3 as a tax exempt entity with eminent domain.

The District's Board of Directors is appointed by the regional partners and, according to by-laws, can have no fewer than three members, each serving a four-year term.

The Sewer District is exempt from the Public Service Commission and the Board has the authority to issue bonds and set rates. Each Board member has one vote. Founding Board members are Dr. Wesley James from MAWSS, Mr. Gerald Easley from Chickasaw and Mr. Sam Covert of Alabama Power Co., representing the community at large.

Regional Approach Solves Multiple Needs

Adequate wastewater treatment is essential to support the economic growth occurring in our region. In addition to being able to meet growing capacity needs, treatment plants must meet increasingly stringent environmental and regulatory requirements to protect our coastal waters. Receiving streams for several existing plants will see lower load limits allowed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management over the next few years. This will require significant upgrades to the plants or a relocation of their outfalls to deeper waters. Systems impacted will include MAWSS, Prichard, Chickasaw and Satsuma.



Site Location

While several sites were identified in the feasibility study as possible locations for the regional wastewater treatment facility, the former ALCOA site appears to be the most feasible. Located on property owned by the Alabama Port Authority, it was used as a disposal site by ALCOA before the plant ceased operations decades ago. The property has elevations of about 40 feet, raising it above tropical storm surge projections for that area. The site will require development, which can be accomplished by relocation of adjacent dredge material. The industrial location is isolated from residential neighborhoods.

Phased Construction

Construction of the facility would be done in phases starting with the infrastructure needed to transport treated effluent from existing wastewater treatment plants to a new outfall on the east side of the Mobile River. This would have an immediate benefit to the environment by removing discharges from smaller tributaries. Site development would continue until funds became available to construct a new regional wastewater treatment plant which would allow the abandonment of the older wastewater treatment facilities. The timing goal would be for new facilities to be ready as existing plants reach obsolescence.



Mitigation Factors

A new regional facility would also mitigate damage and loss of wastewater treatment at existing plants which are vulnerable to flooding. Chickasaw lost its treatment facility during Hurricane Katrina. Both MAWSS' plants are susceptible to surge flooding, especially the Williams facility located on McDuffie Island. A direct hit could inundate the plant and leave much of Mobile without adequate wastewater treatment. The plant is adjacent to the coal terminal and new container facility operated by the Alabama Port Authority. An agreement to exchange property on McDuffie Island for the ALCOA site would provide a win-win solution for both organizations.





Benefits of Regional Service

- Environmental protection/regulatory compliance
- Increased funding opportunities
- Project resiliency/storm surge protection
- Economics of scale
- Enhancement in technology
- Regional collaboration

Your Support Demonstrates Good Stewardship

This is an exciting time in the history of our region. Just as our region is moving forward, we, too, are moving forward to support its unprecedented growth. Your support of our plan for a regional facility is critical to meeting our citizens' needs. And it is an opportunity for you to protect the environment and better serve your public. We appreciate your careful consideration.

Dr. Wesley James, MAWSS, Chair 251-694-3470, wjames@mawss.com

Mr. Gerald Easley, Utilities Board of the City of Chickasaw, 251-452-3870,
ggeraldeasley@bellsouth.net

Mr. Sam Covert, Alabama Power Co., 251-694-2314, swcovert@southernco.com

Alabama Gulf Coast
REGIONAL SEWER SUPPLY DISTRICT

Alabama Gulf Coast Regional Sewer Supply District,
P.O. Box 2368, Mobile, AL 36652-2368 Phone: 251-694-3470