

Swisher Water Questions

Through 3/3/23

Below are questions as submitted by the community through 3/3/23. **HR Green's Responses are provided in Green.**

1. **Can you explain "Forgivable Loan"?**

Forgivable Loans are grants available to the community. Much of the Federal Infrastructure Funding is being funneled through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. The SRF program administers loans to communities, where grants are referred to as "forgivable loans".

2. **It was stated that the timeline could shorten if grants are awarded for the construction of the Municipal Water System. It was also stated that cost savings could be realized if other CIP were done at the same time. For example sewer repair, road replacement along with water. Is the city prepared for a faster paced construction timeline? Basically, would there be enough money to do both if necessary so these savings wouldn't be lost.**

The City's budget is set annually. If the water system vote passes, City Council will incorporate planning of the water system into the overall City budget. The City can provide additional information on its annual budget for residents.

3. **How were the number of users determined?**

The September 2022 Preliminary Engineering Report Amendment 1 included planning-level estimates on areas of known developments over a 20-year design period. These estimates were used initially due known development areas at the time of the report Amendment.

Subsequently, the estimates for the number of lots in the Forrest Ridge 76-acre development have been refined by the developer. As discussed at the Public Information Meeting on 2/26/23, the implementation plan is based on an extended 30-40 year time period in order to reduce the initial capital costs required and the associated monthly rates. The implementation plan as presented in the community flyer and discussed at the Public Information Meeting accounted for a reduced number of lots in the Forrest Ridge development.

Due to the extended duration of the implementation plan, the implementation plan made assumptions as to the overall growth in the community over a 30+ year time period. There is additional land currently incorporated with Swisher's corporate limits that is available for development. Information at the Public Information compared the population and growth projects within Swisher over 30+ years to be a 120% increase from the 2020 Census population. This equivalent annual growth rate is a slight increase from the historical growth observed over the last 30 years within Swisher. However, Swisher has seen similar short-term growth between 1990 and 2000 as a comparison point. The future growth projects were compared to neighboring communities in the I-380 corridor as another reference point. The projected growth in Swisher compares to half or less than observed growth rates in communities such as Shueyville and Fairfax, and approximately 1/3 the growth observed in Walford and Ely.