

## Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment Project

**W**ater. In our community, we're surrounded by water from bay to beach. Water is the most precious natural resource that every living being needs to survive, but its future has been challenged by increasing drought and floods, a growing population and pollution. For this reason, the city of Clearwater's public utility planners and engineers have been working toward a solution to our community's potential water concerns.

After eight years of planning, analysis and thorough testing, the Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment project is set to break ground in 2017 with the construction of four aquifer recharge wells at the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility.

A project of this type is known in the water industry as indirect potable reuse. This means that a two-step process is used to purify reclaimed water to better-than-drinking-water standards, and then the Floridan aquifer is recharged using up to three million gallons of this purified water every day.

"This flow of purified water directly into the aquifer through the four wells that will be constructed will provide the community with a new water supply," said David Porter, director of Clearwater Public Utilities. "Another goal is to reduce or divert the discharge of water into Tampa Bay, thus helping to better protect the bay's ecosystem."

The city of Clearwater is leading the way in Tampa Bay with this innovative project, but groundwater replenishment is not new. Since the late 1970s, cities in California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and Virginia, to name a few, have successfully implemented similar water purification processes to alleviate water concerns in their communities. With the assistance of engineering professionals from Tetra Tech and Leggett, Brashears & Graham, Inc. (LBG), Clearwater and the Southwest Florida Water Management District conducted its own pilot project in 2013 to determine that the process was safe, reliable and made sense for Clearwater. It will be the first project of its kind in Florida.

### Join us for two public information open houses on the groundwater replenishment project:

- Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m., Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave.
- Tuesday, May 2 from 5 to 7 p.m., East Library, 2251 Drew St.

As construction begins, all eyes are on Clearwater to see how the project will make a difference in alleviating some of Tampa Bay's water concerns. The \$33 million dollar project is being co-funded by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is one of several projects in the city's Integrated Water Management Strategy, which was developed to manage the rising cost of water, to protect the environment and to ensure that our residents have the water they need in the future.

The city and its partners will host several public meetings in 2017 to provide residents with the opportunity to learn about the project and ask questions. The groundwater replenishment project team is available to meet with homeowners and citizens' groups for individual presentations. To learn more, visit [myclearwater.com/groundwater](http://myclearwater.com/groundwater), or call (727) 562-4581.

