

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The City of Sulphur recognizes the concerns with its water plant and is determined to resolve those issues. These problems were created through many years of deferring vital maintenance. At the end of 2019, state licensed engineers and water experts were hired to perform a thorough assessment.

It was determined that the wells at the plant were introducing an unduly high amount of iron content into the plant's filter system. It was also discovered that the filter vessels had not been adequately maintained over many years and that they needed total replacement. The city immediately set upon a multi-step approach to rectify these problems.

These longstanding issues were in the process of being addressed, but their impact combined with other events to exacerbate the water situation. Southwest Louisiana suffered three presidentially declared major disasters in six months. When the city's water system lost pressure in these catastrophic events, Health Department rules require the city to focus all efforts on 'bringing the pressure up.' This required all water to be sent to the tanks and pipes without the normal backwashing through the filters. This introduced additional excess iron content water into the system.

**The city's capital plan is to attack the identified problems from every direction. There is more money currently budgeted for water system capital improvements than was spent in the prior 25 years combined.**

**1. Filter Media.** The first step was to replace the filter media. This began in mid-2020, the project was interrupted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta but was completed late last year.

**2. New Filter Systems.** The second step is to completely replace the filter system with new filter vessels, internals, and filter media. A documented need to replace the filter system existed for over a decade. The bid for this major project has already been awarded and the vessels are currently being manufactured. The new filters should be installed and operational by the end of 2021.

**3) Better Wells.** The third step is to improve the source water from our wells. A little more than a month ago a primary well failed. The city's backup well has a high iron content, more iron content than the failed well. The city is currently re-working that primary well, if successful that will allow the well with the highest iron content to go to reserve status.

The city has also already directed its engineers to design and bid the drilling of an entirely new well. If this well is successful in locating water with lower iron content it will allow other wells with higher iron levels to be placed in reserve status. The drilling of the new well will be bid in the next few months.

**4) New Pretreatment System.** The fourth step in the capital plan is already under design and has been budgeted for construction in 2022. This step includes installation of a state-of-the-art pretreatment system to remove most iron and manganese from the water before it enters the city's filters.

**The City of Sulphur will use every available resource to replace or repair whatever is identified as a problem to deliver the quality water the citizens of Sulphur deserve.**

