WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The City of St. Augusta completed its water distribution system in 2003. Due to high nitrate concentrations in the aquifers near St. Augusta, the City has relied on St. Cloud for water supply over the last 20 years. This reliance on St. Cloud for water supply is no longer cost effective or sustainable for the reasons outlined below.

Operational Issues – The system's current layout leaves the southern portion of St. Augusta at the end of a 1.5-mile dead end. This layout causes regular operational challenges and continuous pressure fluctuations. Additionally, the southern portion of the system lacks redundancy to ensure water supply in the event of a break along the 1.5-mile main.

Ongoing Growth – While 3,500 people currently reside in St. Augusta, only 1,300 rely on the municipal water system today. However, recent projects from the St. Cloud Planning Organization estimate a 2040 population of 4,500 residents and 2,800 municipal water system users.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The Water System Improvements project will provide an efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable solution to longstanding operational challenges experienced by St. Augusta's water system. The result will be sustainable infrastructure that accommodates current and projected growth and catalyzes ongoing private investment.

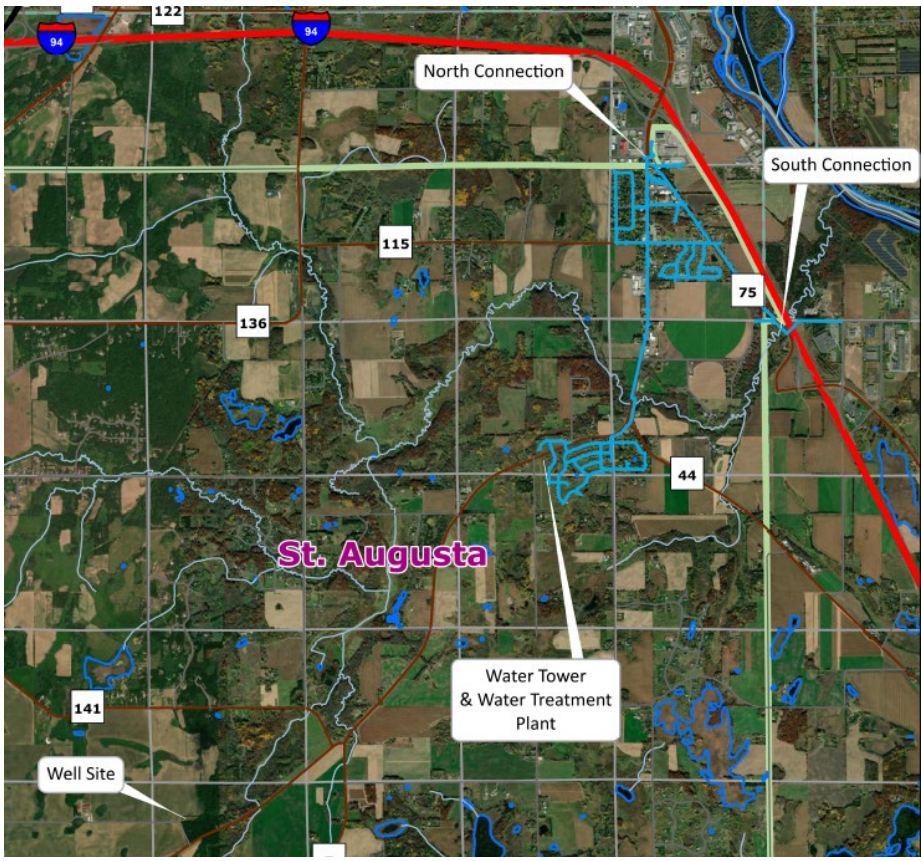
Supply Wells – St. Augusta plans to construct two new wells on land owned by the City. The proposed site is 4 miles south of the distribution system. A recent well siting study found no primary contaminants at this location, but it did identify the secondary contaminants of iron and manganese.

Treatment Plant – The City plans to build a new water treatment plant to remove secondary contaminants. The plant will be located 4 miles north of the well field, at the southern terminus of the distribution system. The proposed layout calls for 4 miles of 8-inch water main to connect the wells to the treatment plant. A 12-inch main will connect the treatment plant to the distribution system.

Storage Tower – St. Augusta plans to construct a 250,000-gallon elevated tower to provide reserve, equalization, and fire protection storage above the projected 2040 average daily demand. The tower will provide redundant supply to ensure continuous service in the event of a break along the 1.5-mile main that supplies the southern portion of the City.

PROJECT COST

The City is pursuing creative solutions to fund this critical infrastructure project. The total project cost is $11 million. This figure includes all engineering, legal, and administrative costs associated with the project.



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