



Water and Sewerage Corporation
Press Conference
Monday, January 7th 2019
The Pointe, South Andros

Site Visit and Press Release
Adrian Gibson, MP
Executive Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporation

Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to have you here at this Press Release this afternoon.

CDB SOUTH ANDROS PROJECT

As many of you may be aware, the Corporation is presently executing a Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Water Supply Improvement Project funded by a \$28.33 million loan from the Bank and \$13.3 million in counterpart funding from the Government of The Bahamas. This project will improve access, reliability and the quality of water supply systems serving communities on New Providence and six Family Islands. Works are complete on San Salvador and they are approaching substantial completion on South Andros. Works have also been completed in Pinewood Gardens Phase B and Coral Lakes/Boatswain Hill on New Providence.

As you may know, recent analyses have concluded that the strongest hurricanes occurring in the North Atlantic Region have increased in intensity over the past two to three decades. In the Bahamas, we have been faced with these natural disasters and we must adapt. The expected outcomes of the project are:

1. Improved climate-resilient water supply systems and operational performance of WSC on the project Islands
2. Enhanced capacity of WSC for Climate Change and Vulnerability adaptation and mitigation.
3. Improved access, reliability, and quality of climate-resilient water supply systems.

The South Andros project – an investment of over 5.5 million dollars – The supply and installation of approximately 1,980 feet of 6-inch, 107,250 feet of 4-inch and 53,600 feet of 2-inch C900 PVC water mains (**a total of 163,130 feet or 30 miles of water mains and approximately 604 service connections**). The project will impact over **1,200** residents. Settlements impacted by the Project include: **Congo Town, Long Bays, High Rock, Bluff, Smith’s Hill, Kemp’s Bay, Black Point, Deep Creek, Rolle Town, Pure Gold, Little Creek, Pleasant Bay and Mars Bay**

This project was executed in 3 lots:

Lot 1- Replacement of Distribution Mains in South Andros, The Bahamas – Congo Town, Long Bay, High Rock and Bluff Settlements

Supply and install water transmission/distribution systems in settlements from Congo Town to Bluff Settlements, South Andros to replace existing mains. The works include the supply and installation of approximately 19,250 feet of 4-inch

C900 DR 18 water mains and 13,200 feet of 2-inch SOR 21 PVC water mains and 143 service connections.

Lot 2- Smiths Hill, Kemps Bay, Black Point Settlements, South Andros.

Supply and install water distribution mains in settlements Smith's Hill to Black Point Settlements in South Andros. This work includes the supply and installation of approximately 1980 feet of 6" C 900 DR 18 PVC water mains, 29,700 feet of 4" DR 18 PVC water mains, 31,900 feet of 2-inch SOR 21 PVC water mains and 240 No. service laterals, and ancillaries.

Lot 3 – Construction of New Transmission/ Distribution Mains – Deep Creek, Rolle Town, Pure Gold, Little Creek, Pleasant Bay and Mars Bay Settlements, South Andros.

Supply and install water distribution mains in settlements Deep Creek to Mars Bay Settlements in South Andros. This work includes the supply and installation of approximately 58,300 feet of 4 inch DR PVC water mains, 8,800 feet of 2-inch SDR 21 PVC water mains and 221 No. service laterals and ancillaries.

CURRENT STATUS AND OUTSTANDING WORKS

Work was started in early 2017 and the project is approaching substantial completion. All service connections and **over 90%** of the pipe have been supplied and installed. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the project has had some delays in early 2018. The matters have been resolved and the works will continue in the near future. Outstanding works include:

Creek Crossings – The contractor will survey, design and install a submerged HDPE (high-density-poly-ethylene) pipeline along the Deep Creek and Little Creek bridges. The pipe will be secured with concrete anchor blocks to remain stable and

have little impact during hurricane force wave conditions. The contractor has already performed both hydrographical and hydro geotechnical surveys. The final design is under review and works will commence shortly thereafter.

Reverse Osmosis Plant Access Roadway- Just behind the Kemp's Bay High School, the roadway to the RO plant will be constructed. This location was chosen for its elevation (60 ft+). It will provide the ability to gravity feed the island and also mitigate against sea-level rise. We have had numerous iterations of the road design to ensure that there is limited social impact. The contractor will be asked to construct a private 10 ft wide, single lane, sand-sealed finished roadway. Perimeter fencing will also be constructed at the school boundary. We would like to thank Mr Norwood Rahming, Charles Miller, Theophilus Rolle, James and Alice Sands and all others who would contributed to providing additional access (use of land) for the road construction.

Reverse Osmosis Plant (water quality) - Many think that all of Andros has adequate fresh groundwater, but there are some areas in South Andros with a very high salt content. The Sea Water Reverse Osmosis plant will provide potable drinking water to the residents of South Andros. All settlements between Smith's Hill and Mars Bay will be impacted (Approximately 800 residents). The plant will produce 30,000 imperial gallons per day and the construction period shall not exceed 26 weeks. It will be equipped with a 100,000 (3 to 4 Days) Imperial Gallon Storage tank and a full standby generator. The agreement has been signed and the plant will be constructed to service the residents of South Andros.

Extension to Holy Lands – WSC has discussed future plans to extend the water main approximately 2,650 linear feet in the settlement of Rolle Town. This extension can complement the The Bahamas Holy Land Experience. The Holy Land is a 20 acre eco-adventure, geological study and biblical theme park.

In-house 2” Main Extensions –WSC has identified areas in the existing system to install 2 inch mains and eliminate the long service connections.

Ministry of Works Sea Wall – WSC have conducted a site visit with the Ministry of Public Works to identify areas of the seawall that have collapsed and needs repairs.

Well Field Upgrades – WSC has made significant progress in the bluff well fields to eliminate the rusty water concerns. Wellfield improvement works include 6 new wells, replacement of galvanized rusty pipes and new pumps. Works are ongoing in the wellfield.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY, DISASTER MITIGATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Climate change is unavoidable and WSC have implemented climate change resiliency measures to reduce the vulnerability to water supply constraints during natural disasters. Measures for South Andros include:

Power Outage – In South Andros, a full standby generator will be installed at the plant to ensure continuous service.

Flooding – WSC identified the 100 year flood levels and ensured that pumps, tanks and plants are at least 2 feet above the flood level (where possible).

Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise – WSC identified historical surge events and the areas that have the potential to be impacted have been protected. Measures for storm surge include the use of HDPE (high density polyethylene) pipe, constructing plants and tanks at least 30ft above sea level and to increase the pipe burial depth to 4ft.

Hurricane Winds – WSC identified structures and equipment that could be impacted and will ensure that they are designed to withstand Category 4 wind forces up to 156mph.

I am indeed excited to be here today as the Executive Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporation. I again thank the Hon. Prime Minister for his unwavering support for the Corporation.

I know all too well the dire needs of the Family Islands, which have been ongoing for a long time. Rest assured that we are working hard on your behalf in an effort to ensure that our government addresses these needs. As I close, I wish to commend the dedicated and hardworking Water and Sewerage Corporation staff members in South Andros and all of The Bahamas.