



# OKLAHOMA

## Water Resources Board

### **For Immediate Release:**

December 8, 2022

### **Barnsdall Public Works Authority receives \$99,450 grant for water quality improvements**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Barnsdall Public Works Authority (Authority) in Osage County received approval for a \$99,450 Emergency Grant Thursday through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority’s water infrastructure.

The Authority owns and operates the Lake Waxhoma Dam. This dam has been subject to heavy rains which have saturated the north side of the spillway and cut a path under the spillway thus creating a large void which could cause a total breach of the dam. These grant proceeds were used to install a siphon to maintain the lake levels and for engineering design and construction management of the siphon project. The estimated cost of the project was \$117,000 which is funded by this grant of \$99,450 and \$17,550 in bank loan funds.

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the grant will save the Authority’s customers \$171,500 in principal and interest charges by not having to borrow the project funds. Since 1983 the Water Resources Board has approved over \$6.14 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma. Barnsdall’s Mayor, Johnny Kelley, stated, “I want to express to the Board, our city’s sincere appreciation for the grant which allowed us to move forward with the project which will help to keep our citizens safe.

“We are grateful to Senator Bill Coleman and Representative Judd Strom for their continued support of water and wastewater infrastructure funding in Oklahoma,” said Julie Cunningham, OWRB Executive Director.

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