



OKLAHOMA

Water Resources Board

Immediate Release:

December 8, 2022

Temple Utilities Authority receives \$1,000,000 water system funding from OWRB

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Temple Utilities Authority (Authority) received approval for \$1,000,000 in funding Thursday from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority’s water infrastructure. The construction of upgrades to the system will be financed by a 100% principal forgiveness loan through the Oklahoma Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

The Authority will utilize the proceeds to construct a new chlorine booster pump station, upgrade elevated tower components, install an emergency generator, retrofit aerator, clarifier, and gas chlorination room, and rehabilitate the working water treatment plant. Disinfecting drinking water has reduced waterborne disease drastically. However, byproducts which may result by the disinfection can sometimes have unintended effects. Therefore, by addressing this issue, this project helps to meet the public health goals for the state.

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB’s Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the Authority’s customers will save an estimated \$1,624,500 compared to traditional financing.

The DWSRF program is administered by the OWRB and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) with partial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The DWSRF program has provided over \$2 billion in drinking water loans to provide communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources statewide.

Since 1983, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has approved over \$6.14 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma.

Julie Cunningham, Executive Director of the OWRB, and Scott Thompson, Executive Director of the ODEQ, express their sincere appreciation to State Senator Chris Kidd and Representative Toni Hasenbeck for their support of the DWSRF program.

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Contacts:

Joe Freeman



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(405) 530-8800

Joe.Freeman@owrb.ok.gov

Eddie Rhandour

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

(405) 702-8100

Eddie.Rhandour@deq.ok.gov