Kings River Pipeline
Frequently Asked Questions
October 2015

Kings River Pipeline

1. What is the Kings River Pipeline and why is it needed?
The Kings River Raw Water Pipeline is a 13-mile, 72-inch pipeline that will deliver surface water to the Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility for treatment to drinking water standards before delivery to City of Fresno water customers.

2. Did the City consider using the existing canal system to transport the water to the new Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility?
Yes, the City of Fresno evaluated the alternative of using the Fresno Canal and Mill Ditch to convey water to the new Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility, but the Kings River Pipeline alternative was recommended for technical, environmental, institutional, financial and operational reasons.

3. When will construction begin on the pipeline? How long will it take?
Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2016 with construction estimated to take about 20 months. The timing is essential to ensure the pipeline is in place to carry the surface water from the Kings River to the Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility which will be operational in 2018.

4. What kind of work can be expected as part of the Kings River Pipeline project?
Pipeline installation will involve open trenching with some locations possibly requiring tunneling. The pipeline would be installed generally within the existing roadway right-of-way. On average, 150 feet of pipeline could be installed per day for each pipe laying crew. Safety will be a top priority throughout the construction process; open trenches will be temporarily closed or barricaded at the end of each work day and equipment will be secured. During non-working hours, Belmont Avenue will be opened up to allow two way traffic.

Work on the Kings River Pipeline will include excavators, loaders, cranes, trucks and dump trucks, pickup trucks and paving equipment. Staging areas have not yet been confirmed, but would be required to store pipe, construction equipment and other construction-related items. Staging areas could be used for the duration of the project, or could be moved as pipeline construction moves along the route to minimize hauling distances and avoid construction impacts on any one area for extended periods of time.

The City of Fresno recognizes that area roadways are heavily traveled and are also used for recreational biking. Construction will be carefully managed to provide useful detours and to use signage and flaggers to streamline traffic flow as much as possible.

5. Will County residents on wells need to tie into this pipe?
No, the Kings River Pipeline is a large-diameter, raw water pipeline that will transport water from the Kings River to the new Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility. This project will not impact private wells.
6. How big is the pipe and where will it run? How big will the trench be for the pipe?
The trench will be up to 16 feet deep and 10 feet wide. The pipe will be 72 inches (six feet) in diameter. The construction corridor requires a minimum of a 40-foot working area to allow for contractor operations.

7. Where will the pipe be constructed?
The Kings River Pipeline route will begin at a diversion point near the Fresno Canal #3 crossing of East Trimmer Springs Road, and will travel west along Belmont Avenue to Armstrong Avenue to the Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility at the intersection of Armstrong and Olive Avenues.

8. How will the City work with the farming community during construction?
It will be important for the contractor team to be aware of harvest times in advance of construction. The City will work with area farmers to understand sensitive farming times and require the Contractor to minimize impacts on access to Belmont Avenue.

9. Will local access to driveways and mailboxes be maintained for residents?
The City will ensure that properties along the route have ongoing ability to enter and exit homes and businesses.

10. What are the traffic control plans for the project? Will there be detours?
Traffic control plans will be developed as part of the project, and they will include potential traffic detours, as needed. The City is currently working with the County to develop potential traffic detours, but it looks like Highway 180 will be the primary detour route.

11. How will the City address safety of children near Temperance-Kutner Elementary School?
Safety is the top priority for the City. The City is already coordinating with Clovis Unified School District to understand traffic patterns, school bus routes and pedestrian routes. Construction scheduling and phasing will be coordinated with the school and the school district. School bus schedules and routes will also be coordinated with Sanger Unified School District.

12. Will sections of Belmont Avenue be closed during construction?
The City and County are working together to determine the approach that provides a balance between minimizing inconvenience to residents and travelers, and getting the work completed as efficiently as possible – which also benefits residents and travelers. The City will have more detail in coming months on the plans for roadwork and closures.

13. Will Belmont Avenue be widened as part of this project?
Belmont Avenue will not be widened as part of this project.

14. What will the City do to ensure safety along the construction route?
Safety is the highest priority – for residents, travelers and for construction crews working in roadways. Safety inspectors will be on-site throughout the construction process; strict protocols are in place for contractors to ensure adherence to safety measures during construction; and trenches will be barricaded after hours, with equipment moved to safe locations and no direct access to open trenches. During non-working hours, Belmont Avenue will be opened up to allow two-way traffic.
15. **What are you going to do to ensure businesses are not impacted?**
   Part of the purpose of this meeting is to understand the needs of the businesses – hours of operation, special events, access needs – so that the City can work closely to minimize inconvenience. Signage will be provided for all businesses to make access routes clear; and traffic controllers will work to reduce delays in access to businesses. Traffic signage will be placed well in advance of detour routes notifying the public that businesses are open and access will be provided.

16. **Are these projects approved? What are the next steps in the approval process if they are not yet approved?**
   Yes, this project was approved by City Council in February 2015, as part of Recharge Fresno. Final design of these facilities is currently underway. Since most of this project is in the County, not the City, the City is working closely with County staff to obtain approval and to address concerns.

17. **When will a contractor be selected for the Kings River Pipeline project? Will there be more than one contractor selected?**
   The project design is anticipated to be complete by January 2016, and a contract is expected to be awarded by April 2016. One contractor team will be selected, but the contractor may use specialized sub-contractors for some of the work. The City will work closely with the contractor and all subcontractors to ensure all meet requirements to minimize inconvenience to residents and businesses.

18. **Why is the City constructing this project; why not the County?**
   The Kings River Pipeline is a City of Fresno project to capture water from the Kings River and transport it to the City’s Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility. This requires the pipeline to traverse County roads, however. The City and County are coordinating closely to streamline the process and reduce inconvenience to area residents and businesses.

19. **Will this project result in wells running dry?**
   This project, along with the Southeast Surface Water Treatment Plant, are designed to reduce reliance on groundwater by capturing and treatment surface water in normal years. This is good for everyone. In addition, the availability of surface water resources should enable to City to discontinue or minimize use of some of its area wells, another benefit to area groundwater resources. The entire state is focused on replenishing groundwater resources – Recharge Fresno and this project have that same goal.

**Public Outreach**

20. **How can I communicate with the project team before and during construction?**
   The City will provide information to the community in a variety of ways and is committed to keeping the community informed about the Kings River Pipeline project. At any time, residents can call 844-FRESNOH2O or submit a comment on [www.RechargeFresno.com](http://www.RechargeFresno.com), and a team member will respond.
21. **How is the City of Fresno working with Fresno County on this program?**
   The City is working with the County to determine traffic planning and potential detours, to minimize construction impacts; and is also coordinating to ensure residents have access to project information and updates.

22. **How will residents receive information about the project?**
   The City has developed a number of ways in which you can obtain up-to-date information. The best way is to visit [www.RechargeFresno.com/projects](http://www.RechargeFresno.com/projects). The City also has an information phone line where you can leave a message for project team members who will get back to you with project information. Please leave your email address for electronic updates; the City will distribute mailed information on a periodic basis; and there may be additional meetings as additional project milestones occur. Our goal is to make sure you have access to the information you need.