



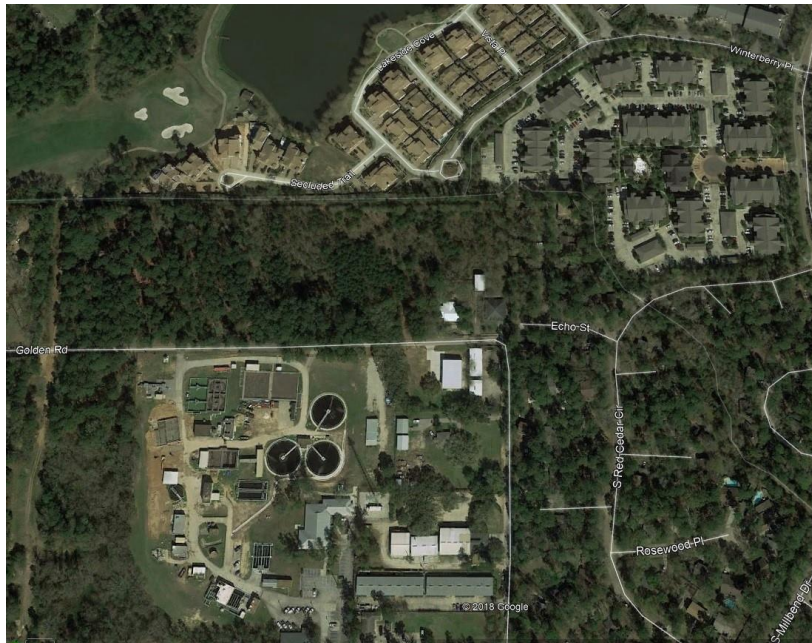
## FAQ Regarding WWTF No. 1 Odor Study June, 2020

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### **What is Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) No. 1? Who does it serve?**

Built in 1975, WWTF No. 1 receives raw sewage from homes and businesses across nine Woodlands Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs): MUD 1, MUD 6, MUD 7, MUD 36, MUD 46, MUD 47, MUD 60, MUD 67, and Metro MUD. The average daily flow is approximately 3.5 million gallons per day.

The three WWTFs in The Woodlands are operated by the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) pursuant to contracts with the MUDs. Per the contracts, the MUDs approve the budgets and capital project plans and pay for maintenance, operations, and facility expansions through the sewer rate.



### **What's in the plant?**

WWTF No. 1, located near Sawdust Road and S. Millbend Drive, consists of mechanical and manual bar screens, a grit removal unit, four aeration basins, three secondary clarifiers, two low-head cloth media filters, and three chlorine contact basins. The sludge handling units include aerobic digesters, a gravity thickener, and two belt filter presses.

### **Are there problems at the plant? Is odor normal? Can we do something about it?**

- Odors are normal for a plant of this type and age, but we can do something about it.
- Considering that the plant was built in 1975 when there were no neighboring businesses or residences nearby, the plant is running as it was originally designed.
- Operationally, the plant has consistently earned awards for Peak Performance and Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year.
- Over the years, as development has occurred closer and closer to the plant, odors have become more noticeable, meaning that significant upgrades will be needed to bring the plant to today's higher standards for reduced odor.
- These upgrades will involve both short-term and long-term fixes.

### **What has been done so far?**

SJRA and the MUDs have taken several steps to determine sources and mitigate odor, including:

- High pressure and vacuum cleaning of sewage lines
- Covering grating to prevent venting from splitter boxes
- Bypassing the plant's grit unit
- Inspecting manholes and repairing as needed
- Installing inserts and solid, non-venting manhole lids
- Expanding chemical disinfection of open roll-off containers
- Upgrading odor control systems at the plant and installing additional units
- Changing processes in aerated basins
- Adjusting aeration control, monitoring, and alarming practices
- Initiating a comprehensive odor control study in February 2020

### **Has there been an odor control study in Lakeside Cove?**

Yes, this year SJRA and the MUDs initiated a comprehensive study to identify odor sources and recommend solutions.

- January 2020: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality investigated reports of odor at WWTP No. 1. No evidence of odor was found during this inspection.
- February 2020: SJRA engaged Perkins Engineering to conduct an odor study in the neighborhood of Lakeside Cove.
- March-April 2020: Sensors were placed throughout Lakeside Cove. Data was collected from 16 locations over four weeks. Weekly progress and sensor locations posted to [www.SJRA.net](http://www.SJRA.net).
- May 2020: Consultant will review collected data and report findings in a public meeting.

### **What's the path forward?**

Mitigation measures are being implemented right now to provide as much odor reduction as possible in the near term while permanent fixes are designed and presented to the MUDs for approval.

Results and recommendations from the Perkins Engineering odor study will be presented to the MUDs. As the contract owner/operator, SJRA stands ready to execute any measures approved by the MUDs.

For information on Woodlands Water Agency visit their website at <https://woodlandswater.org>, call 855-426-7283, like them [@WoodlandsWater](#) and follow them on Twitter [@WJPA Water](#).

For additional information on the WWTF No. 1 Odor Study, please visit our website at [www.sjra.net/woodlands/construction/wastewater-treatment-facility-odor-study/](http://www.sjra.net/woodlands/construction/wastewater-treatment-facility-odor-study/), call the Woodlands Division office at 281-367-9511, or contact Matt Corley at [mcorley@sjra.net](mailto:mcorley@sjra.net).

For additional information on SJRA visit our website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net), like SJRA on Facebook [@SanJacintoRiverAuthority](#), follow us on Twitter [@SJRA\\_1937](#), find us on Instagram [@sanjacintoriverauthoritysjra](#), or connect with us on LinkedIn [@San Jacinto River Authority](#).

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