

ECUA Recycles Old Water Line Into Reef

ECUA's water supply to Pensacola Beach is presently delivered via a 24-inch diameter subaqueous line under Santa Rosa Sound. Prior to the 24-inch line being installed, the Beach was supplied by a 16-inch water line attached to the Bob Sikes Fishing Bridge. That 16-inch water line has been out of service for several years, and had become a liability for ECUA. When planning for the removal of the line, fittings, supports and other materials, ECUA decided to have them

ECUA DECIDED TO HAVE THE MATERIAL TRANSPORTED OUT INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO, AS AN ARTIFICIAL REEF, INSTEAD OF BEING TAKEN TO A SCRAP YARD.

transported out into the Gulf of Mexico as an artificial reef, instead of being taken to a scrap yard. ECUA employed the services of Utility Service Company to remove the material from the bridge, transport it to a marina and taken out into the Gulf for deployment.

The approximate length of pipe recycled into a reef is 4,000 feet, weighing approximately 220,000 lbs (110 Tons). Including the miscellaneous pipe fittings and supports, the total estimated weight of the material is around 250,000 lbs or 125 Tons! This material was transported out to the reef site by barge, over two trips.

The total project cost was \$80,987 (including the dismantling of the pipe and miscellaneous supports). The portion of the budget required to deploy the material as an artificial reef is \$13,000. Utility Service Company graciously paid half the cost (\$6,500) of deployment, as this is a very beneficial community project.

Based on information from Escambia County's Artificial Reef web site, the ECUA Steel Water Pipes reef is located at a depth of 96 feet, and its coordinates are: Latitude - 30 05.025'N, and Longitude - 87 11.015'W.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ECUA offices will be closed Monday, September 3, 2007 in observance of Labor Day.

There will be no change in the collection schedule for the Labor Day holiday. All ECUA garbage and yard trash collections will be made on their regularly scheduled collection days.

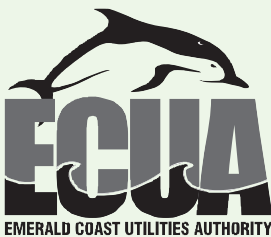
ECUA PHONE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

If you find the need to call ECUA with a question about your service, you will notice that the ECUA has installed a new automated telephone system to take customer calls. This new system will be in effect for both our main switchboard number **(476-5110)** and our Customer Service number **(476-0480)**. The system is designed to allow you to reach the person or ECUA department you are calling as quickly as possible. When you call in, you will have the option of being directed to either Customer Service, an Employee Directory, or a Departmental Directory. If you already know the extension number of the person you are calling, you will be able to key in that extension number for a direct connection. This new system is designed to update our existing telephone technology, as well as more effectively use our existing staff.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ECUA's daily water production during the month of June was approximately 47 million gallons per day (mgd). ECUA has sufficient water and pumping capability within its 34-well system to accommodate this demand. In order to moderate some of the extreme peaks in usage, and to maintain a balanced system pressure and reduce the amount of wear on our pumping equipment, we recommend that our customers irrigate between the hours of **10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.**, which is our optimum off-peak time.

If a large percentage of the customers respond to our request, this will greatly enhance our system capabilities and expand the life of our equipment.



ECUA Bayou Marcus Wetlands' Panhandle \ Birding Trail Receives Grant for Improvements

In the Fall of 2006, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which oversees the Great Florida Birding Trail Program, applied for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to have site enhancements funded in the western portion of the Panhandle Birding Trail. The Commission invited ECUA to submit a proposal in mid-October to be a part of this potential grant funding. The ECUA's Bayou Marcus Wetlands is one of the Birding Trail sites. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had asked seven site managers in this region to identify bird watching/wildlife viewing projects that would benefit their Birding Trail sites. Site enhancements that could be funded as a part of this grant included wildlife viewing blinds, benches for trails, interpretive signage, brochures, and loaner optics trunks.

The window of opportunity for applying was quite small however, as the grant proposal was due November 1, 2006. Mr. Steve Woods, Utility Operations Supervisor at the ECUA's Bayou Marcus Water Reclamation Facility, can be credited with pulling together the information required for the grant application in record time (a detailed description of the project, estimated costs, materials and labor needed, and time frame for completion were required), and ECUA's project was included.

ECUA received word at the end of June that we have received a \$15,200 grant to complete site enhancements at the Bayou Marcus Wetlands site. We know these improvements will definitely enhance the bird watching and educational experience of those in the community who enjoy walking the boardwalk at the Bayou Marcus facility.

Improvements that will be covered by the grant include:

- * Trail improvements--\$5,000 (labor, limestone rock, and PVC corrugated drain pipes).
- * Shade stops for benches (four units)--\$5,000 (labor and materials—lumber, roofing panels, hardware)
- * Display case for supplies and brochures (two units)--\$1,500 (materials and labor)
- * Bird Checklist (\$2,500)
- * Interpretive signage (\$1200)

