The NFWBA Fee is not paying for research, nor does ST receive any income from this fee. You are paying the apportioned share of the costs associated with running Surface Water lines from Lake Houston to Fulshear for the reduction in the City's dependence on groundwater. The North Fort Bend Water Authority was formed by Legislative Mandate in the early 2000's to deal with our regional requirements to reduce subsidence associated with groundwater usage. The City of Fulshear was included in Fort Bend County Subsidence District A, which means that we were required to develop a plan to offset subsidence caused by groundwater usage.

Joining the North Fort Bend Water Authority was the City's solution to that very expensive mandate. I can tell you that the scientific and political merits of this move have been hotly debated as you may have heard about the current debate going on in the Cities of Richmond and Rosenberg about this very issue. I can also say that this is a legacy issue for the current City Council as the decision to join NFBWA was made two Administrations and several Council terms ago.

We have researched the possibility of trying to find an alternate solution to the issue and in short, we've discovered that the only way to opt out of participation in the NFBWA would be for special legislation to be passed and then the City would have to incur significant costs to offset the funds expended to actually upsize and bring the lines to Fulshear. Then, the City would have to tackle the costs associated with actually reducing groundwater reduction on its own. For clarification those lines have been laid even though the City will not be forced to convert to surface water until 2025. I would note also that all of the local MUD's within Fort Bend County east of the City also are participants in the NFBWA.

I understand this can be overwhelming, confusing and frustrating but at the end of the day it is the hand the City and its residents have been dealt.

CJ Snipes
City Administrator
City of Fulshear
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