

# Project Overview: A New Water Reclamation Facility



The Jackson County Utility Authority (JCUA) needs to upgrade our water reclamation and treatment systems. Our current facilities can't meet the increasingly strict environmental requirements designed to protect our natural resources, and the properties are susceptible to the impacts from the storms and flooding that are getting progressively more frequent and severe.

JCUA is collaborating with a team of engineers and experts to plan the design and construction of a new water reclamation facility to allow for the expansion and innovation necessary to meet our future needs. While it will be several years until the project is complete and the new plant is operating, you can take the time now to learn about the critical challenges the team is working to solve so we can meet our future wastewater needs. Read this information sheet for highlights of the key benefits of the multi-year project and links to additional resources.

## Planning for Resiliency

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded existing treatment facilities, restricting operator access to facilities for several weeks and causing extensive damage to pumps, equipment, and electrical components. The frequency and severity of storm events and associated flooding is adding more challenges each year, so the design of the new facility will incorporate elements to support more resilient operations, even with the likely impacts of changing weather conditions, including anticipated sea level rise.

Read the [EJCCWRF Benefit Highlight: Growth & Resilience](#) information sheet to learn more about how the proposed facility will make our operations more resilient.

## Protecting the Environment

Wastewater treatment is a vital part of the effort to protect our water resources, and our current facilities can't meet the increasingly strict environmental requirements designed to safeguard rivers, streams, and local habitat. The proposed facility is being designed as "zero discharge" – that means instead of JCUA discharging treated water to local rivers, the water will be sold to local industries that currently pull water for operations from local waterways like the Pascagoula River. With the zero discharge goal and space to incorporate new technologies to meet new treatment standards, the proposed facility will improve the health of our rivers and streams.

Read the [EJCCWRF Benefit Highlight: Environmental Protection](#) information sheet to learn more about how the proposed facility will benefit the environment.

## Managing Growth

The current JCUA treatment facilities are limited in their ability for expansion and innovation that is necessary for our wastewater treatment system to meet future in our community. The proposed new facility would be designed with a capacity to treat up to an average of 20 million gallons of water per day, which meets existing demands and future needs.

Read the [EJCCWRF Benefit Highlight: Growth & Resilience](#) information sheet to learn more about how the proposed facility will support growth in our region.

### Learn More about the Project

The design and construction of the new facility – officially called the East Jackson County Consolidated Water Reclamation Facility, or EJCCWRF – is in the early stages. Visit the project website to learn more about the benefits and participate in the planning of our future wastewater needs.

### Did You Know?

The US Environmental Protection Agency reports that more than 16,000 publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants operate across the United States. Federal grants are available to help organizations like JCUA that continue to innovate to better protect human health and the environment.