

Comments

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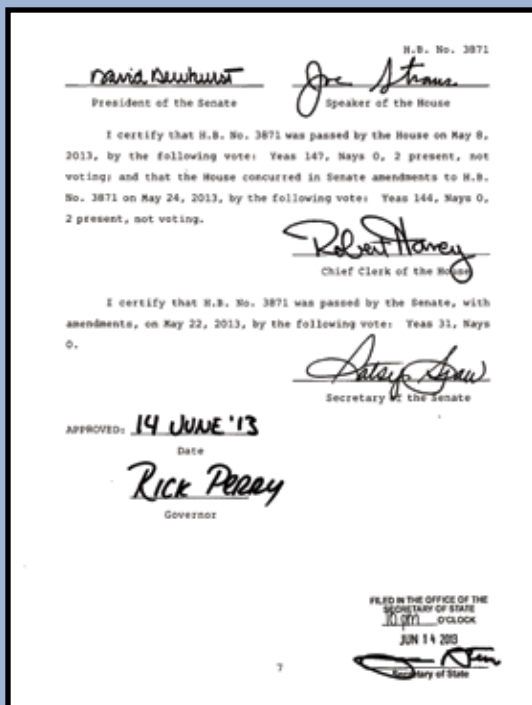
GCA's Role Expanded by New Legislation.

June 14, 2013, marked a significant milestone for the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority. On that day, Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation passed in May by the Texas House and Senate that expands GCA's role beyond municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and solid waste management to enable the Authority to build, own and operate water systems including pipelines, conduits, canals, pumping stations, force mains, plants, storage and other facilities used for the treatment, collection of distribution of water disposal systems and treatment facilities for brackish, re-use and non-potable surface or saline water.

Sen. Rodney Ellis (Houston) and Rep. Wayne Smith (Baytown) championed the legislation proposed by GCA in response to industrial customer concerns that

the prolonged Texas drought might result in the curtailment of water resources for industrial use. Drought conditions aside, projected Texas economic and population growth could constrain water supplies unless sources are expanded in the future. The idea behind the new legislation

was to conserve drinking water for human use statewide by providing industries access to non-potable "re-use" water from treatment facilities and other non-traditional sources of water. It was passed by both houses



GCA Board Thanks Sen. Ellis, Rep. Smith For Legislative Leadership



State Rep. Wayne Smith of Baytown receiving the proclamation from GCA Board Chairman Mark Schultz.

GCA's Board of Directors in September issued proclamations thanking Texas State Sen. Rodney Ellis (Houston), State Rep. Wayne Smith (Baytown) and their staff for sponsoring and working diligently

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Trash Bash Wins 2013 Mayor's Proud Partner Award



RIVER, LAKES
BAYS 'N BAYOUS TRASH BASH®



GCA Operations Manager Lori Traweek (Left), Houston Clean City Commission Chairman Jim Tate, and Kathy Janbsen of the Houston-Galveston Area Council who is regional Trash Bash coordinator.

The annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® has received another Proud Partner Award from the Mayor of Houston. The award was presented by Houston Mayor Annise Parker and Houston Clean City Commission Chairman Jim Tate at the 29th annual Mayor's Keep Houston Beautiful luncheon held on October 28.

GCA is a Platinum Sponsor of the yearly half-day cleanup effort and has been involved in the event every

year since its inception in 1994. The Authority manages two clean-up sites—Sims Bayou and Virginia Point—where GCA employees at every level of the organization join scores of other volunteers to collect and remove litter, old automobile tires and other refuse from the local waterways and shorelines. GCA Operations Manager Lori Traweek is president of the Texas Conservation Fund, which organizes Trash Bash, and Executive Secretary Lynda Norton serves as the Fund's Treasurer.

Each year, the Proud Partner Awards honor programs or projects that create a cleaner, more beautiful environment. Candidates must be nominated through the Keep Houston Beautiful organization. Trash Bash also was recognized with a Proud Partner Award in 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2011 in addition to several other state and national awards since its inception.

“This year's Trash Bash event, held on March 23, attracted over 5,000

40-Acre, Odessa South and Bayport Facilities Recognized with NACWA Awards

At its July 16th meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) recognized three GCA facilities for consistently outstanding work.

The 40-Acre and Odessa South facilities each received a Gold Award in recognition of their consistent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance during calendar year 2012.

GCA's Bayport Facility received a Silver Award for its consistent NPDES permit compliance during 2012.

Eighty facilities at 14 Texas NACWA Member Agencies earned Peak Performance awards in 2013. This outstanding accomplishment underscores the members' commitment to environmental protection and the diligence and hard work of agency employees.

"We're honored that NACWA has again chosen to recognize GCA facilities for outstanding performance and proud to be among the Texas Member Agencies who have achieved this level of excellence," said GCA General Manager Ricky Clifton.

GCA Chairman Mark Schultz presents NACWA awards to: Bayport Facility Manager Scott Harris (top photo); GCA Operations Manager Lori Traweek, accepting on behalf of the 40-Acre Facility; and GCA Manager of Facility Services Gordon Pederson, accepting for the Odessa South Facility.



volunteers who collected more than 49 tons of trash along 167 miles of shoreline,” said Traweek. “We’re proud to be a lead sponsor and supporter year in and year out. The cleanup dovetails very well with GCA’s mission of protecting the

waters of the State of Texas, plus, it’s a meaningful team building opportunity for our employees.” The annual River, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash® is the largest water-based environmental education and cleanup effort in Texas. Next year’s

Trash Bash cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 29. The Houston–Galveston Area Council has served as the regional coordinator for the event for the past ten years.

GCA Contracts with Kerr Energy to Provide Water for Drilling and Completions Operations

Ongoing drought conditions in Texas, coupled with an increase in water demand to service fracking and other oilfield drilling and completion operations, have created opportunities for GCA to help conserve drinking water by providing treated effluent to industry. “In times of drought, scarce water supplies are allocated to people first,” said GCA Manager of Facility Services Gordon Pederson. “But industry needs water, too. By providing non-potable treated water from our facilities, we can help keep the economy growing while freeing up drinking water for human use.”

GCA has entered a contract to supply treated water from the Odessa South Facility to Kerr Energy for use in its Permian Basin drilling and completion operations, including hydraulic fracturing. Fracking involves pumping water, chemicals and sand or other coarse material into shale and other “tight rock” formations to crack and then prop open fissures that allow the oil and gas to flow more freely. The technique, combined with horizontal drilling, has proven to be a major boost for U.S. energy supplies and a boon to the economies of com-



munities located near shale plays. The agreement calls for supplying up to two million gallons of effluent per day from the Odessa South Fa-

cility to Kerr Energy starting in the first quarter of 2014. This marks the first time GCA has engaged in treated water re-use for industry.

GCA Safety Leaders Recognized

Chairman Mark Schultz and Safety Director Brad Peck recognized GCA's 2013 Safety Program Auditors for their contributions to maintaining a safe work environment throughout the Authority's operations. (From left) Craig Martin, GCA Chairman Mark Schultz, Mark Garcia, Jeff Wood, Calvin Guidry, John Bourman, Troy Bellmyer, Jesse Williams, Andy Pinson, Mark Rausch, Errol Currie, Mike Mellen, Ben Reese, Keith Campbell, GCA Safety Director Brad Peck, and Cliff Pabon. Not shown in the photo are safety auditors Flint Cook, Albert Smith, Curtis Young, Kevin Perkins, Gardenia Broussard, Jerry Nalor, Rusty Gross, Cerjo Cortez, and Lonnie Johnson.



Odessa South Operators
Rusty Gross and Jerry Naylor
are presented the safety award
by GCA Board Member
Rita Standridge.

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of the Texas Legislature without a dissenting vote.

“The new law doesn't put GCA in the position of competing with local and state water resource agencies,” said GCA General Manager Ricky Clifton. “Rather, it provides us the legal authority to work with existing governmental water providers to offer regional solutions, consistent with regional needs. Our business development group is looking into areas around the state where GCA may be of service.”

GCA Board Thanks Sen. Ellis, Rep. Smith For Legislative Leadership

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for the successful passage of House Bill 3871, which expanded GCA's powers and duties to include water system facilities.

“Both legislators have been long-time friends of the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority—in fact, Rep. Smith is himself a former GCA board member—and we wanted to formally express our appreciation,” said GCA Board Chairman Mark Schultz.

“Water resource issues are of vital concern, especially in times of drought, and we are fortunate to have such legislators who understand the role GCA plays in protecting state waters while promoting economic growth through industrial development,” Schultz said.

Comments

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Gulf Coast Comments

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