

CLARIFIER

A PUBLICATION OF GULF COAST AUTHORITY



FALL/WINTER 2020



1969

2019

1969-2019

GCA's 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A PIONEER IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

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GCA CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

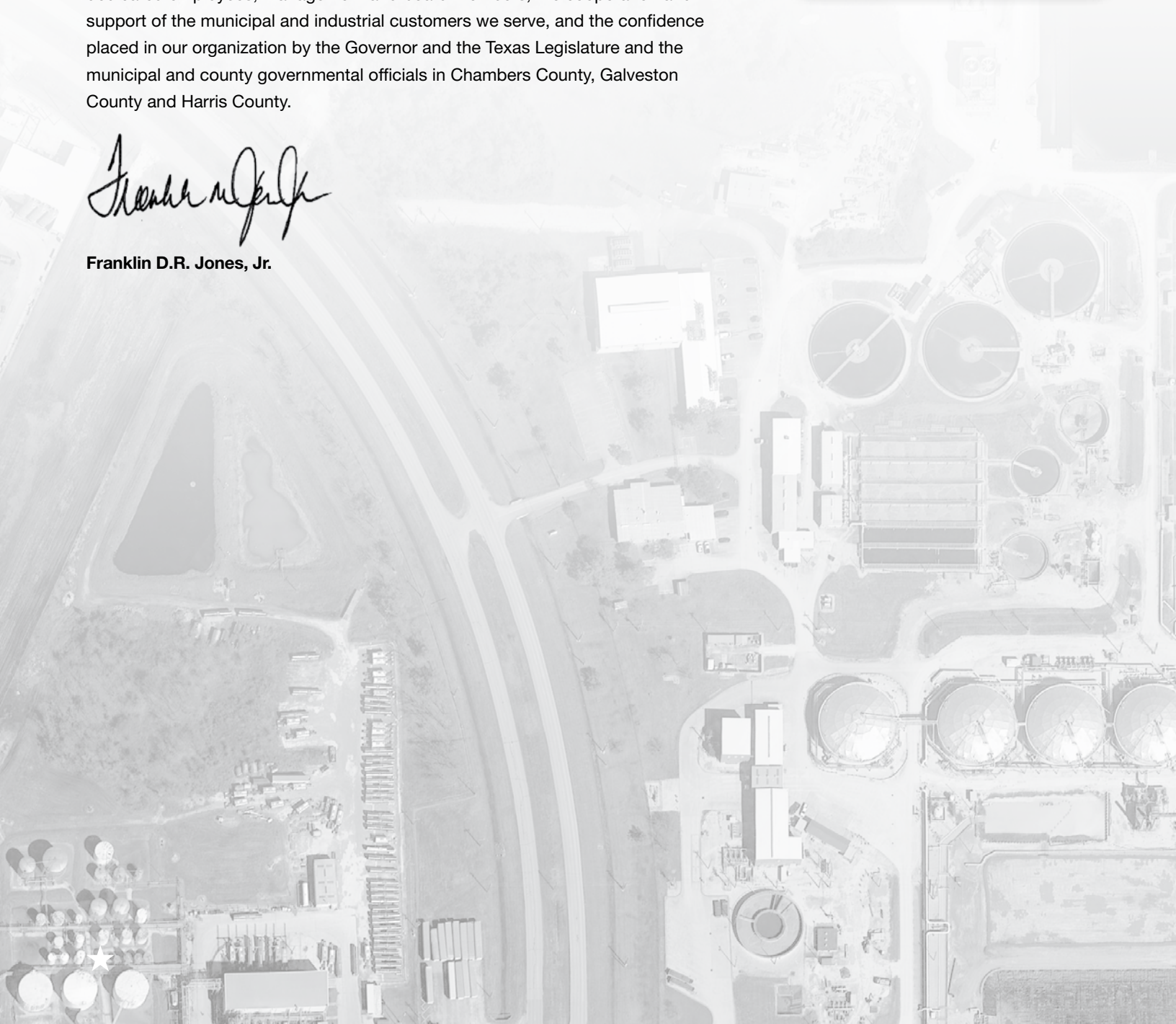
We've just completed our 50th Anniversary and I just want to say how proud I am to serve as GCA's Board Chairman. It is amazing to see how much the Authority has grown and accomplished in half a century, from fulfilling our original mission of cleaning up Galveston Bay and our ongoing efforts to protect this great resource and the waters of the State of Texas, to expanding our charter to provide infrastructure support to other areas of the state and allow the development of non-potable water resource projects that support the state's tremendous growth. We've also contributed to the Texas economy by providing infrastructure and resources to help attract businesses, industry and jobs.

It's been a great run and I am very optimistic about GCA's future, thanks to our dedicated employees, management and board members, the cooperation and support of the municipal and industrial customers we serve, and the confidence placed in our organization by the Governor and the Texas Legislature and the municipal and county governmental officials in Chambers County, Galveston County and Harris County.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr.



GCA CEO/GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER

In this issue of *Clarifier* we celebrate 50 years of achievement at GCA. We've just completed our anniversary year and I echo our Board Chairman's congratulations and thanks to our employees, managers and board members, past and present, who have made us what we are.

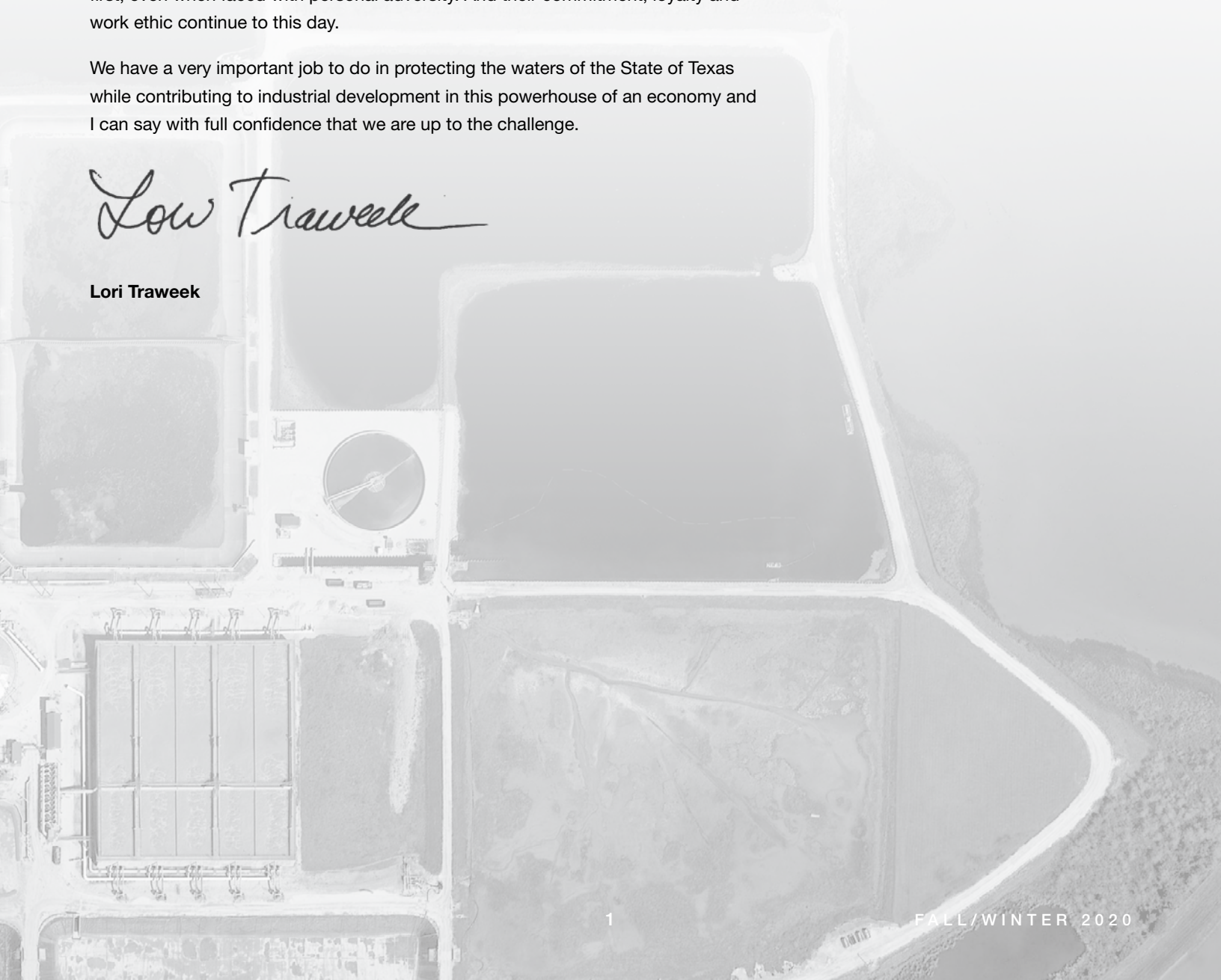
Looking back over our five-decade history, we have so much to be proud of, from pioneering wastewater treatment on a regional scale before there even was a Clean Water Act, to vastly improving the water quality of Galveston Bay and other waters in our state, to improving air quality and expanding our mission and reach. I am honored to be a part of that history, as is every member of the GCA family. Some of the more recent years in our history have tested our mettle with two major hurricanes—Ike in 2008 and Harvey in 2017—and our employees at all levels of the organization responded with courage, above-the-call-of-duty dedication and sacrifice. I witnessed countless examples of employees putting their responsibilities first, even when faced with personal adversity. And their commitment, loyalty and work ethic continue to this day.

We have a very important job to do in protecting the waters of the State of Texas while contributing to industrial development in this powerhouse of an economy and I can say with full confidence that we are up to the challenge.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Traweck".

Lori Traweck



1969-2019

GCA's 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A PIONEER IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

*By General Manager **Lori Traweck***



The year was 1969—50 years ago. Richard Nixon had been inaugurated as president in January, the Vietnam War was raging and Seabrook resident Neil Armstrong would walk on the moon in late July. In mid-August, thousands of young people gathered for the Woodstock Festival in New York. And GCA was created by the Texas Legislature in a visionary effort to clean up Galveston Bay.

It's hard to imagine a time when no treatment was required for discharging municipal or industrial wastewater but that's what was happening. Galveston Bay in the early 1960s was a commercial and recreational fishing paradise, accounting for 80 percent of the fish—not to mention oysters and shellfish—taken along the entire Texas Coast. But decades of pollution, accelerated by population and industrial growth in the area, along with siting of the Johnson Space Center in Clear Lake, began to take their toll as water quality in the Bay deteriorated to an alarming degree. Public, private and industrial groups alike recognized the severity of the threat and Galveston Bay's water quality became the subject of many state investigations.

In 1965, the Texas Legislature created the Pollution Multiple Use Study Committee of which State Senator Chris Cole from Houston was a member. Sen. Cole took the lead in creating the Texas Air and Water Resources Foundation, a private entity whose intent was to support and fund research on air and water pollution. As you would expect, the members of the Foundation were a diverse group of Galveston Bay stakeholders.

Also in 1965, the Texas Water Pollution Control Board, a predecessor of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), adopted an order called the Houston Ship Channel Order, which set water quality standards for the Channel and the Bay and initiated the first permitting program in the nation for both municipal and industrial discharges. To say that this was visionary is an understatement: The U.S. Clean Water Act imposing these same requirements nationally wasn't passed until 1972—seven years later. Texas led the way.

The Water Pollution Control Board also committed to a long-range study of the Galveston Bay system called The Galveston Bay Work Plan. This study was supported by private, federal and university funding through the newly created Texas Air and Water Resources Foundation.



Resolution



Gulf Coast Authority 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Office of Harris County Precinct One Commissioner, it is indeed a pleasure and honor to extend the warmest of *Greetings and Congratulations* to the *Gulf Coast Authority* on the occasion of celebrating its *50th Anniversary*; and

WHEREAS, the *Gulf Coast Authority* was established in 1969 by the Texas Legislature to protect and clean the Galveston Bay watershed, which had severely degraded due to industrial development and population growth. Its primary focus is regional wastewater treatment serving the petrochemical industry, and it operates several regional facilities such as the Bayport and Washburn Tunnel facilities. In 2013, state expanded the GCA's role to included operating additional types of water systems, including brackish water treatment, desalination, and effluent reuse projects to help provide solutions to potable water shortages; and

WHEREAS, the *Gulf Coast Authority's* creation to protect Galveston Bay was visionary and predated the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 by three years. It revolutionized wastewater and solid waste treatment by building a single facility to service multiple sources efficiently and safely. Fifty years later, the GCA continues to protect and serve Texas' water; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as Commissioner of Harris County Precinct One, we proudly join the *Gulf Coast Authority* in the spirit of sharing this special occasion as it celebrates its *50th Anniversary*.

ADOPTED on this 25th day of October 2019 by Harris County Precinct One Commissioner, Harris County, Texas.



Rodney Ellis, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct One
Harris County, TEXAS

PUBLIC SERVICE | FAIR OPPORTUNITY | EQUAL JUSTICE

Then in early 1967 Texas Gov. John Connally released the initial Galveston Bay Study Report, which had four principal conclusions: 1) Acceleration of discharge permitting; 2) Continued aggressive pursuit of the Galveston Bay Work Plan objectives; 3) Reliance on the Texas Air and Water Resources Foundation to continue funding the study; and 4) Creation of a Houston-Galveston Bay Water Quality Authority to implement the Study's Action Plan. That laid the foundation for GCA.

Later that year, the 60th Texas Legislature was hoping to pass GCA's enabling statute but that didn't happen until 1969 when the 61st Texas Legislature created the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority. We were granted broad regulatory powers, including taxing authority, which GCA chose not to pursue. We also were authorized to serve as a conduit financier of private activity and revenue bonds—which GCA did pursue—to date having issued more than \$2 billion in such bonds. It was fortuitous that GCA gained the right to issue bonds for its own facilities as well as for external entities because the Authority was created by the State Legislature without any source of funding.

GCA's early Board of Directors and original General Manager Jack Davis decided that best way for us to improve water quality in the Bay was through regional industrial wastewater treatment in the Houston, Bayport and Texas City ship channels leading into Galveston Bay. The leadership group later added municipal wastewater treatment to GCA's purview.

Timing couldn't have been better; industry on the whole did not have much experience in wastewater treatment since the state's permitting program had only just been initiated. GCA staff met with existing industry in those three areas and were

able to gain support for GCA to own and operate regional treatment facilities in those areas. Once contracts were in place, these facilities were then funded by GCA with bonds, for which the participating industries retired the debt. Those three facilities—Bayport, Washburn Tunnel and 40-Acre—are still in operation today.

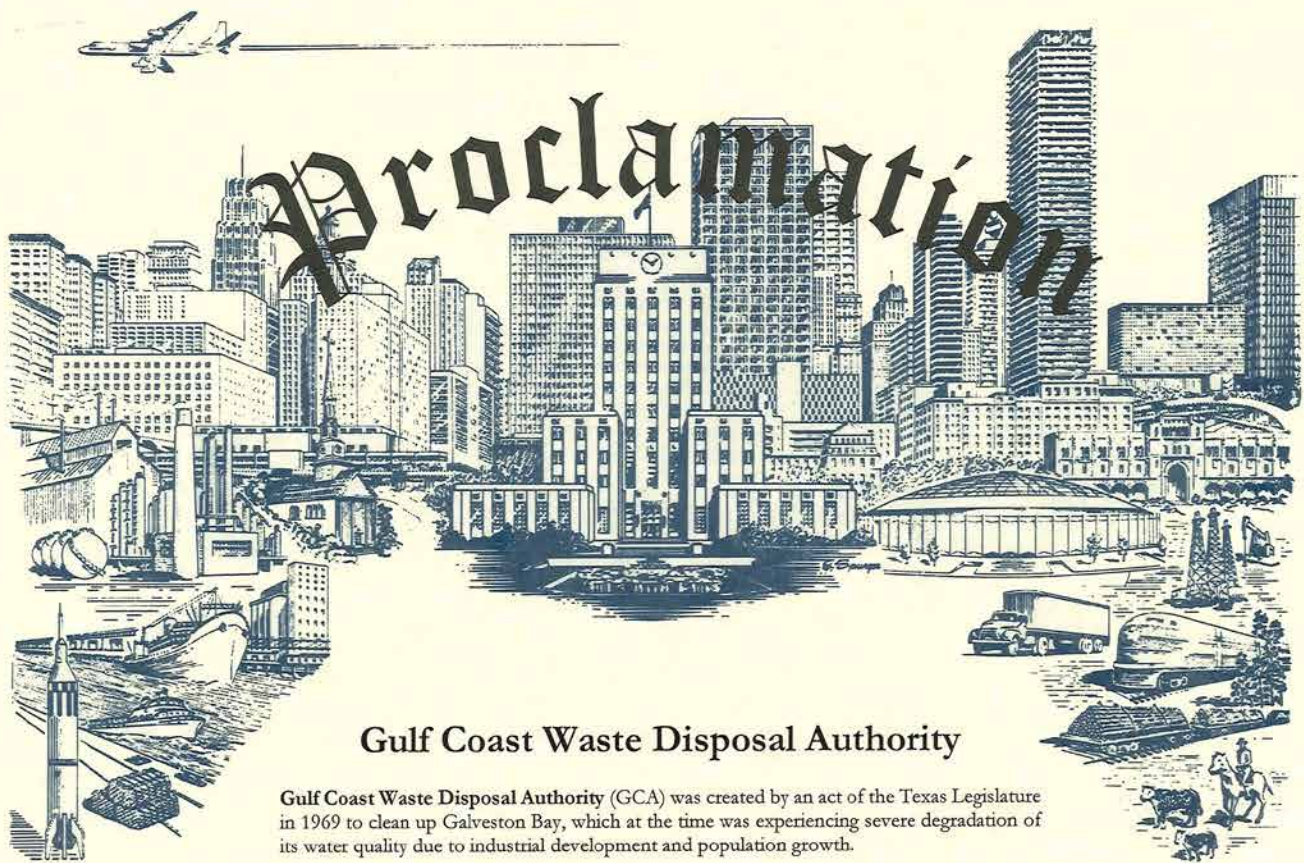
When the Clean Water Act was reauthorized in 1972 with a nationwide permitting program modeled after that of Texas, our first three regional treatment facilities serving industry located on the three ship channels leading into Galveston Bay were already being built. All three were fully operational by 1974. We have grown a lot since then but that's where GCA started and it's a legacy we are all very proud of.

Later in 1990, our statute was changed so that we could operate statewide, which led to our facility in Odessa. Then, in 2013, the legislature expanded GCA's portfolio yet again, permitting GCA to participate in other non-potable water projects statewide.

The rest is history. Our history. Fifty years successfully working with industry in protecting the waters of Galveston Bay and the State of Texas, with the side benefit of promoting jobs and economic growth. It's a mission to be proud of and why we are all so committed to the work we do.

To our Board of Directors, our managers and staff, our industrial and municipal customers and our supporters in Texas State Government, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your contributions to GCA's collective success. Our next 50 years are on the horizon and with the commitment of our talented staff and loyal customers, there are really no limits to what we can achieve.





Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCA) was created by an act of the Texas Legislature in 1969 to clean up Galveston Bay, which at the time was experiencing severe degradation of its water quality due to industrial development and population growth.

GCA initially pursued regional municipal and industrial wastewater treatment services to meet its mission to improve the water quality in Galveston Bay. Now with 50 years of experience in operating large regional facilities for both municipal and industrial waste, **GCA** has demonstrated that regional management is successful.

In 2013, Governor Rick Perry signed legislation that expanded **GCA's** role beyond municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and solid waste operations, enabling the Authority to build, own and operate other types of water systems such as brackish water treatment, desalination and effluent reuse projects in an effort to help provide solutions to potable water shortages across the state. In 2017, The Texas Legislature approved a name change from Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority to Gulf Coast Authority to better reflect the suite of services provided.

On October 25, 2019, **Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority** will celebrate its 50th anniversary of providing reliable water, wastewater and solid waste management services. The City of Houston commends **Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority** for its contributions to economic development and environmental protection within the region and extends best wishes on continued success.

Therefore, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim October 25, 2019, as

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 10th day of October, 2019.

Sylvester Turner

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of the City of Houston

A BRIEF HISTORY OF U.S. WATER POLLUTION REGULATION

The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 was the first major Federal attempt to control water pollution in the United States. While the legislation's original intent was to keep waterways free of obstacles to navigation, it also prohibited the dumping of solid waste into the nation's rivers and harbors.

Nearly a half-century later, Congress passed **The Water Pollution Control Act of 1948** which made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters of the United States without first obtaining a permit. By this time, it was evident that U.S. waterways were becoming increasingly toxic as a result of man made pollution, threatening drinking water, fish and wildlife resources and public health in general. Other federal legislation soon followed:

- **The Water Quality Act of 1965** required states to issue water quality standards for interstate waters and authorized the newly created Federal Water Pollution Control Administration to set standards where states failed to do so;

- **The Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966** authorized a study to determine the effects of pollution on wildlife, recreation and water supplies. It also set guidelines for abatement of water flowing into international territory and prohibited discharging oil into U.S. navigable waters.

- **The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970** required development of certain water quality standards and expanded federal authority to uphold such standards.

Here in Texas, by the mid-1960s public concern over the rapid deterioration of the Galveston Bay ecosystem led to the **Houston Ship Channel Order in 1965**, which established water quality standards for the Channel and the Bay for the very first time, and to the creation of the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCA) by the Texas Legislature in 1969.

That same year, Ohio's Cuyahoga River caught fire from pollutants (the river had been plagued by such fires since 1936) and the nation experienced its largest oil spill to date in Santa Barbara, California. These events—and similar concerns over air and land pollution—helped galvanize public opinion, leading to creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 1970 and Congressional passage of **the Clean Water Act in 1972**, which authorized the EPA to set limits on pollutant discharges into U.S. waters and created federal authority for a permit system, **the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**, to enforce pollution standards.

In 1987, Congress broadened the definition of a “point source” to include industrial stormwater discharges and municipal storm sewer systems, requiring such facilities to obtain NPDES permits. This was implemented in two phases, in 1990 and 1999. Many states and localities since have implemented their own stormwater management regulations, many of which go beyond federal standards.

The Clean Water Act has made great inroads into cleaning up America's waters by reducing point source pollution, but non-point source pollution, which was not subject to regulation under the act, has correspondingly increased. The EPA has attempted to address this imbalance through a market-based approach, introducing its **Water Trading Policy in 2003**, which involves

the voluntary exchange of pollution reduction credits from sources with low costs of pollution control to those with high costs of such control.

In all, since 1960 the United States has spent upwards of \$1.9 trillion to reduce pollution in the nation's waters, excluding efforts to purify drinking water. At its peak in 1977, such investment represented approximately 0.7 percent of U.S. gross national product (GDP). Current spending on water pollution control averages between 0.4 percent and 0.5 percent of GDP.



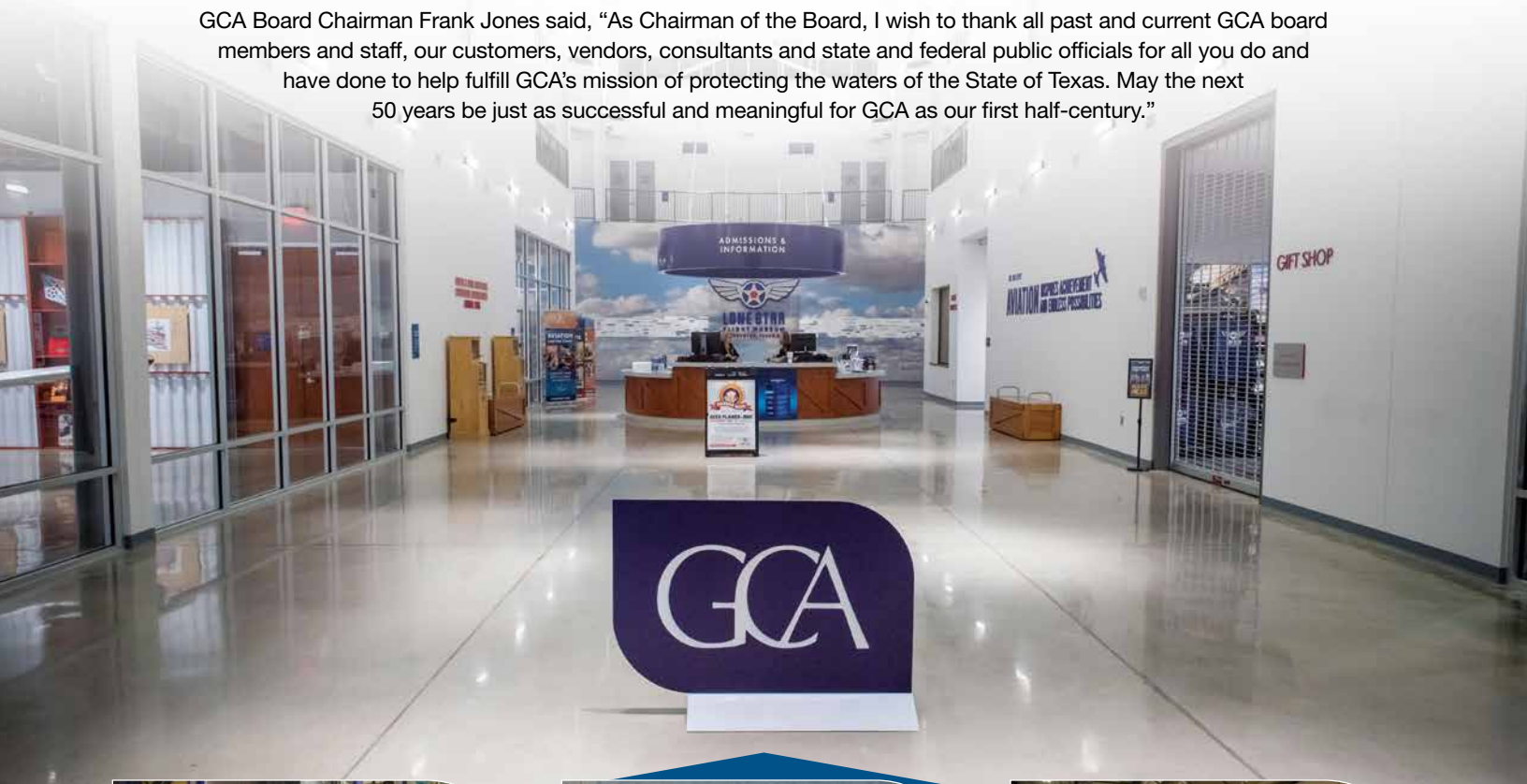
GCA CELEBRATES HALF-CENTURY WITH BOARD, CUSTOMERS, CONSULTANTS, OFFICIALS

In October, GCA's Board and management hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Lone Star Flight Museum in Clear Lake for some 150 customers, consultants, vendors, state and federal officials and board members.

The event featured amazing food and a jazz trio.

General Manager Lori Traweek addressed the attendees and presented GCA's 50th Birthday historical video, featuring past and present managers, consultants and board members.

GCA Board Chairman Frank Jones said, "As Chairman of the Board, I wish to thank all past and current GCA board members and staff, our customers, vendors, consultants and state and federal public officials for all you do and have done to help fulfill GCA's mission of protecting the waters of the State of Texas. May the next 50 years be just as successful and meaningful for GCA as our first half-century."





GCA EMPLOYEES AND BOARD CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

GCA and its family of employees and Board of Directors celebrated the Authority's 50th birthday at an annual holiday party on Dec. 6, 2019, at the C. Baldwin Curio Collection by Hilton in downtown Houston.

The celebration capped a year-long anniversary program for the Authority, which was created in 1969 with the original mission of cleaning up Galveston Bay. GCA's mission has evolved and broadened over the years to encompass providing wastewater and water management services statewide.

It was truly a night to be fondly remembered by all. "It is humbling to work with such dedicated and talented employees and board members. Our many accomplishments over the past 50 years are evidence of that commitment and I am proud to be a part of what GCA will accomplish during the next half century" said Chairman Frank Jones.

"We are so proud of our mission to protect the waters of the state of Texas and also of our progress in meeting that mission which would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of our employees," said General Manager Lori Traweck.



NANCY BLACKWELL RETIRES FROM GCA BOARD



Nancy Blackwell being presented proclamation from GCA Board upon her retirement from the Board.

Nancy Blackwell, PE, retired from GCA's Board of Directors in March 2019, having served as Board Treasurer. She also served as Chair of the Audit and Budget Review committees and was also a member of the Economic Development and Legislative Committees. She joined the Board in 2016.

Blackwell is president and majority owner of AEI Engineering, a consulting firm specializing in design and construction management of utility and facility projects, primarily for municipal and government entities. She is an active member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, for which she recently completed her tenure as State President. She is a member of the Texas Engineering Foundation, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Association of Water Board Directors and a board member of the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce. Blackwell graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. GCA's Board honored Blackwell's service with a proclamation.

HAIL AND FAREWELL TO GCA BOARD MEMBERS



GCA Board Members present a proclamation thanking outgoing member Bob Fry for his service to the Authority. (Left to right) Director Mark Schultz; Treasurer Kevin Scott; Vice Chair Rita Standridge; Bob Fry; Secretary Chris Peden and Director Billy Enochs.

On September 12, 2019, the Gulf Coast Authority Board of Directors passed two resolutions honoring the service of Directors Ron Crowder and Robert Fry.

Crowder has represented Galveston County under appointment by the Galveston County Mayors since 1999. During that time, he also served as President of the Gulf Coast Industrial Development Authority and on numerous Board Committees including the Budget Committee, Business Development Committee, Special Projects Committee, and Governance and Nominating Committee.



Ron Crowder

Fry has represented Harris County under appointment by the Harris County Mayors since 2018. During his tenure he served as Chairman of the Budget Committee, Audit Committee, and the Legislative Committee.

Rita Standridge, Vice Chair of the Board, acknowledged each of their contributions and dedication stating, "The members of this Board hold Ron Crowder and Robert Fry in the highest esteem and wish to express their sincere appreciation for their contribution to the continued success of Gulf Coast Authority and wish Ron Crowder and Robert Fry success and happiness in future endeavors."



BLACKHAWK FACILITY HOSTS UNIVERSITY GROUP

GCA's Blackhawk Municipal Facility in Friendswood hosted Kathleen Garland, Ph.D., and a university student group with a presentation and tour of the operations on October 2, 2019. Facility Manager Brianna Morales and Operations Supervisor Shannon Miftari led the University of Houston-Clear Lake Pollution Control Technology class on an evening walking tour of the operations and lab. They explained each step in the process

from the headworks to discharge, the importance of wastewater treatment and water resource management. Morales, Miftari and GCA's Human Resource Director, Keith Hardcastle, also fielded questions from the group on the treatment process, regulation, compliance, environmental impact and careers in wastewater management. It proved an informative evening in how GCA continues to protect the waters of the State of Texas.

WASHBURN TUNNEL COMMUNITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP TOUR

GCA's Washburn Tunnel Facility hosted the Galena Park – Jacintoport Community Industry Partnership group with a presentation and a tour of operations on September 5, 2019. Facility Manager Phyllis Frank, Operations Supervisor Greg Seay and Compliance Coordinator Anna Brown led the tour. Frank and Seay explained the history and mission of GCA, the treatment process used at WT and the importance of wastewater treatment in managing water resources. The GCA tour guides answered questions from the group about the treatment process, careers in wastewater, regulations, safety and compliance. After the tour, the group facilitator wrote "Thanks so much to all of you for your part in making last night's tour such a wonderful educational experience. Everyone commented on how much they learned and how interesting it was."



Members of the Galena Park - Jacinto City Community Industry Partnership toured GCA's Washburn Tunnel Facility last fall. GCA regularly schedules tours of its facilities to keep community and business leaders informed of the Authority's operations.



CROWN HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS VISIT WASHBURN TUNNEL

The Crown Hill Cemetery is a historic burial ground located next to the Washburn Tunnel Facility. Members of the cemetery's association recently visited Washburn Tunnel to thank GCA for its support for maintaining the site. The cemetery was founded in 1906 and many of the first families of early Pasadena are buried there, including:

- John L. Holbrook (original cemetery trustee and school board trustee);
- Robert M. Guinn (original cemetery trustee, school board trustee, charter member of the Methodist Church and third postmaster of the community);
- James Andrew Jackson (original cemetery trustee, school board trustee, Jackson Intermediate School named for him);
- Joseph M. Cruse (spearheaded the city incorporation drive);
- Ralph E. Parks (first Mayor of Pasadena and city fire marshal);
- James D. Parks (school board trustee);
- Ira L. Pitts (the first settler to purchase land in Pasadena);
- William B. Williams (school board trustee, charter member of the Baptist Church, chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party).
- Veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and peacetime service.

The cemetery was not formally established as a perpetual care facility. The Crown Hill Cemetery Association was recently incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. As a good neighbor, GCA has supported efforts to maintain the cemetery.



Mike Murphy (left), President of the Crown Hill Cemetery Association, recently visited the Washburn Tunnel Facility to present a plaque honoring GCA and the facility for supporting the cemetery. Pictured with Murphy are Facility Manager Phyllis Frank and Operations Supervisor Greg Seay.

GCA MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRIEF NASA EMPLOYEES ON OPERATIONS

Last August, GCA Municipal Superintendent Brianna Morales and Municipal Operations Supervisor Shannon Miftari visited NASA to brief Space Center employees on the Authority and its municipal wastewater treatment activities and in turn had the opportunity to learn about wastewater treatment and re-use on the International Space Station and in the Space Shuttle program. GCA Chief Operating Officer Scott Harris helped arrange the interchange of ideas.

NASA's Johnson Space Center is located within GCA's immediate operating area and many of the agency's employees live in nearby Friendswood and depend on GCA for municipal wastewater treatment services supplied by the Authority's Blackhawk Facility.

"It was a great opportunity to share information and ideas on wastewater treatment and re-use with our friends and neighbors at the NASA Space Center," said Morales. "All of us at the Authority believe in community outreach activities, especially here in our center of operations."

"The Johnson Space Center is a huge area attraction and a major contributor to the local economy," said Miftari. "It is where our astronauts receive much of their training and where the nation's space program is planned and managed. It was a thrill to see firsthand the technology advances coming out of NASA and to meet many of the people involved in the space program."



GCA Municipal Superintendent Brianna Morales (right) and Municipal Supervisor Shannon Miftari check out space suits, the space station and the Space Shuttle at NASA's Johnson Space Center on NASA 1 not far from GCA headquarters.

2019 TRASH BASH

COLLECTS 57 TONS OF REFUSE

Every year, thousands of volunteers gather along Texas waterways to do their part in cleaning up the environment by participating in the largest single-day waterway cleanup in the state of Texas, the **River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash®**.

The 2019 event was held on March 30. Some 4,300 volunteers collected nearly 57 tons of trash at 16 locations along 153.3 miles of shoreline. The haul included 513 tires and about 3 tons of recyclable materials. Half of the volunteers were under 18 years of age, and about 25 percent were members of scouting organizations.

Last year's event marked its 26th consecutive cleanup, an accomplishment of which our dedicated volunteers should be proud. GCA has been a Platinum-level logo sponsor of the event since its inception in 1994. The Authority also participates as site coordinator for two Trash Bash cleanup sites, Sims Bayou in Houston and Virginia Point in Texas City.

The next cleanup event will be held on March 28. For more info, please visit the website at www.trashbash.org.



RICHARDSON HIGH SCHOOL TEAM WINS 2019 TEXAS ENVIROTHON

A five-member team of students from Richardson High School won the 2019 Texas Envirothon competition held in mid-April in Nacogdoches. Team members Olivia Hughes, Elijah Montague, Emily Morrison, Kathryn Anderson and Nick Anderson represented Texas at the national event last July in Raleigh, North Carolina. Tony Strohmeyer and Alisa Salvans served as team advisers.



Ten teams representing six Texas High Schools participated in the three-day competition, which tests students' environmental knowledge in field exams and oral presentations. These included the Science Academy of South Texas Team Green (placing second) and the Academy's Team Maroon (third place) from Mercedes, Rio Hondo High School in Rio Hondo, Seven Lakes High School in Katy and the Academy of Science and Technology and The Woodlands College Park High School from The Woodlands.

Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition for high school students. Five-member student teams answer questions on aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental issue.

GCA is a Bronze Sponsor of the annual competition.

IT DIRECTOR KEN TUCKER RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS

GCA's IT Director Ken Tucker retired in January 2020 after 21 years of service with the Authority. "We thank Ken for his many years of service and wish him all the best life has to offer in his retirement and travels," said General Manager Lori Traweek. Thierry Weber, former GCA Network Administrator, has been promoted to take Ken's place at the helm of IT. Thierry began employment with GCA in May 2014 as a Senior Programmer/Analyst.

TECH. DIRECTOR LEVINE REPRESENTS GCA ON TWO WATEREUSE SYMPOSIUM PANELS

GCA's Technical Director Leonard Levine, PE, in September participated in two panels on industrial water recycling at the 34th Annual WateReuse Symposium in San Diego, California. Levine organized and moderated a panel focusing on produced water associated with oil and gas exploration. The panel was comprised of representatives from oil and gas production, state regulatory authorities, water treatment services and the environmental advocacy sector. Levine also served as a panelist in a discussion of industrial water reuse.

The theme of the symposium was "Collaborate to Innovate," showcasing recycled water collaborations among utilities, farmers, industry and regulators working together at both the state and federal level; sustainability; public/private partnerships; and, for the first time, the latest in reuse research led by the Water Research Foundation. The Annual WateReuse Symposium is the nation's premier conference on water recycling – attracting more than 1,000 water professionals from around the nation for knowledge-sharing, and networking.

The WateReuse Association is the only national trade association dedicated solely to advancing laws, regulations, funding and public acceptance for water recycling. Its membership

represents more than 200 communities and more than 60 million people – one-sixth of the nation's population – who are developing safe, reliable, locally-controlled water supplies.



(Left to right) Thierry Weber, Kirk Vining, Ken Tucker, Laurie Tucker, Phyllis Bludworth, and Charles Bludworth.

SCRIPT AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

GCA's SCRIPT Awards are presented quarterly to employees who best embody the Authority's Core Values: **S**tewardship; **C**ommunication; **R**eliability; **I**ntegrity; **P**lanning; and **T**eamwork. Recent winners are identified in the photo spread.



Conventional Lab Coordinator Mai Bui (center) accepts her award from Central Lab Manager Doris Haydon (right) and Assistant Lab Manager Cindy Story.



Bayport Mechanic Jason Chenoweth (left) receives his SCRIPT Award from Facility Manager Kim Ontiveros (center) and Chief Operating Officer Scott Harris.



Assistant Lab Manager Cindy Story (center) accepts her SCRIPT Award from Central Lab Manager Doris Haydon (right) and Gordon Pederson, GCA's Chief Technical Officer.



Data Base Administrator Kirk Vining (left) of the Central Office receives his SCRIPT Award from then IT Director Ken Tucker.



Mark Garcia, Operator/B License at Blackhawk, is honored with a SCRIPT Award. He is pictured with Facility Manager Brianna Morales (left) and General Manager Lori Traweek.



Operator II Abel Salazar of Washburn Tunnel is presented a SCRIPT Award by Facility Manager Phyllis Frank.



I&E Technician Jay Keil of Washburn Tunnel accepts his SCRIPT Award from Facility Manager Phyllis Frank.



Ken Tucker (left), past IT Director, was a SCRIPT Award winner from the Central Office. He is pictured with Chief Technical Officer Gordon Pederson.



Sheckieta Eaglin (left), Administrative Assistant at the 40-Acre Facility accepts her SCRIPT Award from Facility Manager Diane Maloy.



WASHBURN TUNNEL LANDS WEF SAFETY AWARD



SCRIPT Award winner Cal Start (center, right), an I&E Technician (Instrumentation and Electrical) at GCA's Bayport Facility, with Facility Manager Kim Ontiveros (left), Assistant Director of Project Engineering Jonte Greer (center, left) and Assistant GM Elizabeth Fazio Hale (right).



Thierry Weber (left), Network Administrator in the Central Office, receives his SCRIPT Award from then IT Director Ken Tucker.



SCRIPT Award winner Amanda Wilbert, Director of Accounting in the Central Office, with Chief Operating Officer Scott Harris.



Safety Coordinator Ben Reese was recognized by the Bayport Facility with a SCRIPT Award. He is shown here with Facility Manager Kim Ontiveros.



GCA's Washburn Tunnel Facility received the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) George W. Burke, Jr., Award for an active and effective safety program.

WEF Vice President Lynne Broaddus presented the prestigious award during the Texas Water Conference at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Accepting the award on behalf of the staff at the GCA Washburn Tunnel Facility were Phyllis Frank, Facility Manager; Greg Seay, Operations Supervisor; Dennis Parnell, Maintenance Supervisor and Jay Kiel, Safety Coordinator.

WEF is a nationwide association that provides technical education and training for thousands of water quality professionals who clean water and return it safely to the environment and WEAT is the statewide organization.



Washburn Tunnel Staff accepts WEAT Safety Award from WEF Vice President Lynne Broaddus (second from right). Pictured from GCA are (left to right) Maintenance Supervisor Dennis Parnell, Operations Supervisor Greg Seay, Facility Manager Phyllis Frank, and Instrument Technician Jay Kiel.

GCA FACILITIES WIN PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARDS

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) recognized four GCA facilities with Silver Peak Performance Awards for consistently outstanding work in 2018. The Silver Award celebrates facilities for having no more than five violations within a calendar year.

The 40-Acre Facility, Washburn Tunnel Facility, Blackhawk Regional Treatment Facility and the Odessa South Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility were all awarded a Silver Peak Performance Award in recognition of their consistent permit compliance.

NACWA recognized 428 facilities at 159 member agencies. The state of Texas had 66 facilities from 12 member agencies achieve Peak Performance Status for 2018. This outstanding accomplishment signifies NACWA members' commitment to environmental protection and represents the diligence and hard work of each agency's employees. GCA was honored to be a part of this level of excellence in environmental protection for which all NACWA members strive to accomplish.

We are proud of these GCA facilities and the diligence of every GCA employee for their continual dedication to protecting the waters of the state of Texas.



40-Acre Facility Manager Diane Malloy (third from right) receives her facility's NACWA Award from Board Members (left to right) Mark Shultz, Kevin Scott, Rita Standridge, Chris Peden and Billy Enochs.



Washburn Tunnel Facility Manager Phyllis Frank (third from right) is honored with the NACWA Award by Board Members (left to right) Mark Shultz, Kevin Scott, Rita Standridge, Chris Peden and Billy Enochs.



GCA Chief Technical Officer Gordon Pederson (third from right) accepts NACWA Awards on behalf of GCA's Blackhawk and Odessa Facilities. Pictured with Board Members (left to right) Mark Shultz, Kevin Scott, Rita Standridge, Chris Peden and Billy Enochs.

LYNDA NORTON FINALIST IN HOUSTON ADMIN AWARDS

GCA Executive Assistant Lynda Norton was named a finalist for the Colleen Barrett Award for Administrative Excellence presented by the Houston Admin Awards. The event, billed as the “Academy Awards” for administrative personnel, is the first and only public recognition program of its kind in the country that focuses specifically on recognizing and rewarding the achievements, dedication and importance of Administrative Professionals.

The program was held in May 2019 at the Hilton Post Oak by the Galleria.

“Lynda does so many things to keep GCA and our central office running efficiently and effectively,” said General Manager Lori Traweek. “She is very active in a number of environmental and community outreach organizations, including serving as the Treasurer of the Texas Conservation Fund where she assists in managing the annual River, Lakes, Bays ‘N Bayous Trash Bash®.”

The Admin Awards offer nine distinct award categories, including the program’s most prestigious award, The Colleen Barrett Award for Administrative Excellence which recognizes the professional who embodies the “spirit” and proficiency of nationally renowned (former) secretary, Colleen Barrett, President Emeritus of Southwest Airlines.



GCA'S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT RECEIVES GFOA AWARD

GCA's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

This is “the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment...” GFOA said in a news release issued in January 2020. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to have met the high standards of the program, including demonstrating “a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate GCA's financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the annual report.”

GCA General Manager Lori Traweek noted that this is GCA's 32nd GFOA award, “all attributed to our very talented and dedicated Finance Department under Amanda Wilbert's leadership as Director of Finance.”



Director of Finance Amanda Wilbert (fourth from left) is shown with the GFOA award. Also pictured (left to right) were board member Mark Schultz; Chairman Frank Jones; Vice Chairman Rita Standridge; board member Bob Fry, board treasurer Kevin Scott and board secretary Chris Peden.

TWCA's RISK MANAGEMENT FUND PRESENTS SAFETY AWARD TO GCA

At its mid-October fall conference in San Antonio, the Texas Water Conservation Association's Risk Management Fund (RMF) presented GCA a RMF Safety Award. GCA was recognized specifically with an Outstanding Safety Record in Liability Award for working safe and minimizing liability.

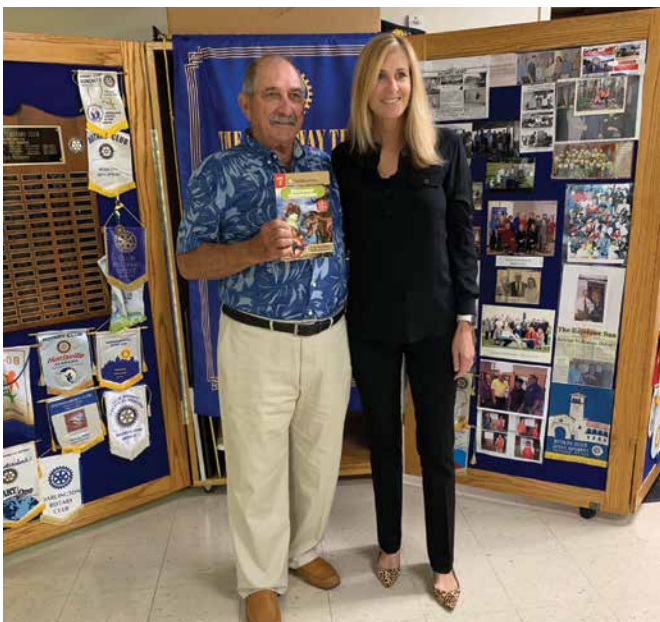
"The best recognition comes from one's peers, who truly understand our business and what is entailed in running a safe workplace," said Assistant General Manager Liz Fazio Hale. "We are honored to have been selected for this award, as safety is a non-negotiable value at GCA."



(Left to right) GCA Chairman Frank Jones, Asst General Manager Liz Fazio Hale, Lori Traweek, General Manager, and Scott Harris, COO after they were awarded with a Texas Water Conservation Association's Risk Management Fund Safety Award at TWCA's Fall Conference in San Antonio. Proud to be recognized for working safe!

GM LORI TRAWEEK SPEAKS AT LA PORTE ROTARY

GCA General Manager Lori Traweek gave a presentation on the Authority—its mission, history and accomplishments—before the La Porte Rotary Club on June 29, 2019, under GCA's community outreach program. Traweek is pictured here with Club President Marty Campise, holding a book donated to the Rotary's book drive.



GCA GM TRAWEEK SPEAKS AT STATE OF THE BAY EVENT

GCA General Manager Lori Traweek spoke at the 11th Annual State of the Bay Symposium in late January at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston. Her presentation followed that of newly appointed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Administrator Ken McQueen. Traweek presented 27 proclamations for area cities and other governmental entities including GCA, NGOs and other organizations that support the Galveston Bay Estuary Program. She also addressed the new Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd edition, which will govern actions taken over the next 20 years to protect and preserve the bay for generations to come.



BLACKHAWK FACILITY MANAGER ELECTED SECRETARY OF TACWA

Blackhawk Facility Manager Brianna Morales was elected Secretary of the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) on January 31. She will serve in that capacity for two years before transitioning to the role of Vice President.

Morales entered the wastewater industry as an operator with GCA 12 years ago and is currently the Manager at the Blackhawk Facility. She holds a BS in Environmental Management from the University of Houston Clear Lake, an MS in Industrial Management from the University of Texas in Tyler and a TCEQ Class A Wastewater Operator License. Morales also serves as the Texas Water Utilities Association Liaison for The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT).

TACWA's national group, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), is a nationally recognized leader in environmental policy and a sought-after technical resource on water quality and ecosystem protection issues. NACWA, formerly AMSA, was established in 1970 by a group of individuals representing 22 large municipal sewerage agencies. They came together to secure federal funding for municipal wastewater treatment and discuss emerging national interest in improving the quality of the nation's waters. Based upon the shared goal of effectively representing the interests and priorities of publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs), they formed what is now known as NACWA.



(Left to right) TACWA Vice President William Gase, Secretary Brianna Morales and President Ron Patel.

GCA BAYPORT SAFETY COORDINATOR REESE NAMED DIRECTOR OF LA PORTE-BAYSHORE CHAMBER

Ben Reese, safety coordinator at GCA's Bayport facility has been appointed a director of the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce. He was installed at the Chamber's 97th Annual Membership and Installation Banquet on Jan. 22, 2020.

As part of GCA's outreach program, employees of the Authority are encouraged to join and regularly participate in community organizations throughout its operating areas.

"It is important for GCA and our staff to take an active interest in our communities and I am delighted to accept this position with the Chamber," said Reese.

The La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic and diverse organization that leads the promotion of business economic development and support of the La Porte - Bayshore community.



Reese is pictured with 2020 La Porte-Bayshore Board Chair Brenda Thompson.

GCA WELCOMES NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS MATT AND ENOCHS

Gloria Milian Matt was appointed to the GCA Board of Directors in May 2019 by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, replacing Nancy Blackwell. She is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. She has a diverse background in the aerospace and petrochemical industries while formerly working for United Space Alliance, E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Company and Kuraray America, Inc. Matt formerly served on GCA's board from 2014 to 2016 before taking a career break to focus on her family and young children.

Billy J. Enochs was named to the board by the Galveston County Mayors in August 2019, replacing Ron Crowder, a board member since 1999. He is currently employed by Evolve Partners, LLC, a Houston-based management and leadership consulting firm. With more than 21 years of military experience, Enochs is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Texas Air National Guard as a Drill Status Guardsman where he serves as the Public Health and Medical Intelligence Officer. He has served as an elected official as a Friendswood City councilman and Mayor Pro Tem. He has more than 20 years of work and consulting experience across a wide range of industry sectors. His degrees include an MBA concentrated in Management Information Systems, a Master of Public Health (MPH), a BS in Environmental Science, and an AAS in Electronics. He also is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and ISO 9001 auditor.

HALE JOINS GULF COAST AUTHORITY AS ASSISTANT GM

Elizabeth Fazio Hale joined GCA's leadership team in June 2019 as Assistant General Manager. Prior to joining the Authority, she served for four years as Executive Director/CEO of the Riverbend Water Resources District, a water and wastewater treatment district serving 12 cities, three counties and industry, located in Texarkana, Texas. Before that she was Director of Natural Resources for the Texas House of Representatives where she formulated groundbreaking legislation creating a water infrastructure bank, the \$2 Billion State Water Implementation Fund in Texas (SWIFT Fund), which helps communities develop and optimize water supplies at cost-effective rates. Hale earned her Law Degree from the University of Denver and received a B.A. in Communications from the University of Texas. She is a native of New Boston, Texas.



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Harris County



Rita E. Standridge
Vice Chair,
Chambers County



W. Chris Peden
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Galveston County



Kevin Scott
Treasurer,
Harris County



J.M. "Mark" Schultz
Member,
Chambers County



Billy Enochs
Member,
Galveston County



Lamont E. Meaux
Member,
Chambers County



Gloria Matt
Member,
Galveston County

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Lori Traweek
General Manager
and CEO



Elizabeth Fazio Hale
Asst. General Manager



Scott Harris
Chief Operating Officer



Gordon Pederson
Chief Technical Officer

CORE VALUES

S	STEWARDSHIP
C	COMMUNICATION
R	RELIABILITY
I	INTEGRITY
P	PLANNING
T	TEAMWORK



Protecting the waters of the State of Texas
through environmentally sound and economically
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