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SPRING 2023

HERE WE GROW...

Next Stop Dallas Fort Worth

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CHAIR'S LETTER

With spring underway, GCA, too, is experiencing a period of growth and exciting new potential.

Construction is set to begin on the GCA RailPort Facility in North Texas. It will be GCA's first new facility in more than 30 years. This is significant for many reasons:

- It expands our mission to a new part of the state, supporting economic growth while protecting the waters of Texas;
- It leverages the expertise of our team, incorporating new technology that is safer, more environmentally friendly, and provides a focus on water reuse;
- It came together quickly, just over two years from concept to contract; and
- It represents a win-win-win through a creative partnership with a regional water authority, local municipality, and industrial participant.

The GCA RailPort Facility reflects our renewed focus on addressing sustainability in wastewater needs and water reuse management practices across the state. The project advances our goal of aiding industry and environment. It also drives cost reductions and creates cost savings while keeping pace with an ever-changing regulatory landscape.

GCA has a storied legacy over the past half century-plus. This newest season of “bloom” for the Authority – where we grow beyond our historic service areas – is something I hope you find as exciting and invigorating as I do. New opportunities like Railport are only made possible, of course, by extensive planning, preparation and hard work. I want to thank the vision and guidance of our Board of Directors, the leadership of General Manager/CEO Liz Fazio Hale, and the dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm of our technical and commercial teams.

Thank you!



Franklin D.R. Jones, Jr.



CEO'S LETTER

Spring has sprung! And GCA continues to evolve and grow. Since the creation of the GCA Strategic Plan 2022-2026, Board and staff have been hyper-focused on implementing initiatives that support and develop both our people and new projects.

We view our team as the foundation of our success in sustaining current operations and achieving future growth. While much of the “people” progress we are working on at the Authority is behind the scenes, the fruits of our labor can be seen in our external successes.

GCA is blessed with a multitude of dedicated and experienced professionals who have spent a large portion of their careers supporting our mission. However, this also means that as more of our team retire, we are challenged to deliver swift, seamless transitions in a rapidly changing workforce landscape. It is a testament to the value of our mission that we have been able to attract such a talented pool of next-generation employees to help carry on the work.

As we celebrate the many years and honors of Gordon Pederson's service, we welcome Phyllis Frank into the Chief Technical Officer position. Under Phyllis' leadership, we have already begun the detailed search for a new Enterprise Resource Planning tool that will significantly impact all business operations across the Authority, from finance to project planning to human resources. Additionally, the Technical Services team under Phyllis, along with Operations under Scott Harris, have begun an extensive Master Planning process for the evaluation and long-term management of our aging infrastructure.

Of course, we could not be more excited to introduce our newest facility in North Texas – the GCA Railport Facility. Kudos to the incredible GCA staff who delivered this innovative project so quickly. Our team's expertise and commitment are working to ensure that GCA's mission is fulfilled to the greatest extent possible. Our deep technical knowledge of wastewater and water management is complemented by a creative, collaborative approach and powered by a pervasive, can-do attitude that brings all of the pieces together for a project like this. This type of inspired and experienced teamwork will continue to drive our growth.

Together, we are helping build a future that preserves and protects our precious water resources. Here we grow... next stop Dallas-Fort Worth!

Thank you!



Elizabeth Fazio Hale



GCA *ON THE* *move*

In the next several months, Gulf Coast Authority is slated to break ground on its first new wastewater treatment facility in more than 30 years. The GCA RailPort Facility in North Texas will treat approximately half a million gallons a day of wastewater for industry expanding in the area, and it will have the ability to serve additional customers in the future.

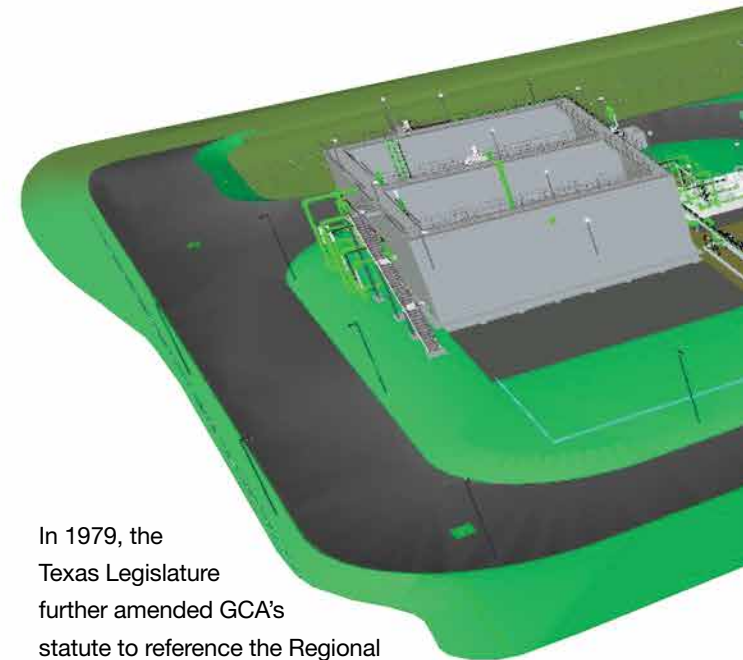
“This is huge for us as an organization,” said Billy Enochs, GCA Board Member who serves on its Board of Directors (BOD) Economic Development Committee. “I’ve always had an adage that if you aren’t growing, you are dying, so this is really exciting and reinvigorating for us as an organization. We have some of the finest wastewater treatment professionals in the industry working for us and this project enables them to put their incredible knowledge to work and show off their capabilities on a new build.”

“Watching this project come so quickly to fruition has been exciting,” stated Kevin Scott, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and President of the Gulf Coast Industrial Development Authority. “We usually see these types of projects take years to develop. It is nice to see GCA at the forefront of providing services to a growing industry in Texas.”

First created in 1969 by the Texas Legislature as a political subdivision of the state, Gulf Coast Authority, then called Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, was charged with assisting political subdivisions

and industry to manage their pollution control needs, with a focus on helping clean up Galveston Bay. Here, GCA was given limited authority to enter certain “cooperative agreements” for water quality and waste disposal management, inspection, and enforcement functions. This authority, however, was not broad enough to own and operate facilities. Therefore in 1971, GCA’s statute was amended to add that it could also “provide” the waste disposal systems, expanding its authority to ownership and utilizing the Interlocal Cooperation Act of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 791. In its first five years, GCA began operating its Bayport, Washburn Tunnel, and 40-Acre Facilities. These treatment plants have undergone numerous expansions and updates in the decades that followed, growing to meet customer needs in the Greater Houston region.

GCA’s original statutory authority covered Harris, Galveston, and Chambers Counties with jurisdiction outside of the district limited to the adjacent counties of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.



In 1979, the Texas Legislature further amended GCA’s statute to reference the Regional Waste Disposal Act, which allowed GCA to own and operate waste disposal projects in the State of Texas beyond the core and contiguous counties with the approval of the local river authority. In 1997, GCA entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Odessa – the Authority’s first outside its original boundaries – to serve wastewater needs in West Texas.



In 2013, GCA's statute was further updated to provide for the construction and operation of water systems with a focus on water reuse, provided that water systems in GCA's original jurisdiction or contiguous counties must be approved by the City of Houston. Two years later, the Authority entered into an agreement to provide water reuse services from the Odessa South Regional Industrial Wastewater Facility.

Fast forward to today, with GCA poised to build a facility in a new part of the state.

"One of the key objectives in our strategic plan is to 'Identify opportunities to support industries and communities through new and redeveloped facilities,'" said Liz Fazio Hale, General Manager/CEO. "Specifically, one of our action items here is to develop regional facilities across Texas. The RailPort Facility exemplifies our strategic plan in action."

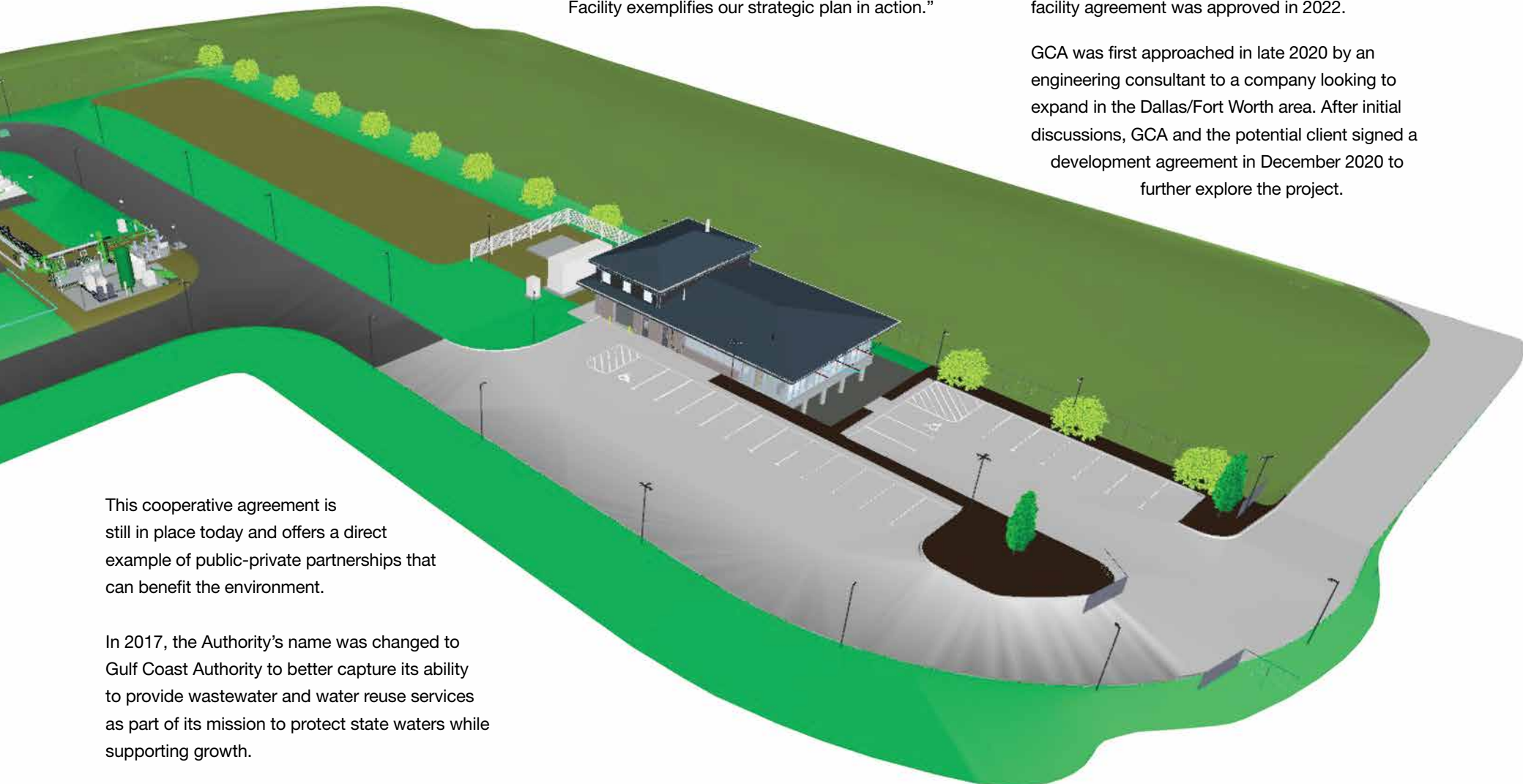
"This project demonstrates we are doing more than just setting objectives; we are actively achieving them," said Jonathan Sandhu, Technical Director. "This will also be our first facility in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and only our second facility outside the Greater Houston area."

The RailPort project came together in less than two years from introductory meetings in 2020 until the facility agreement was approved in 2022.

GCA was first approached in late 2020 by an engineering consultant to a company looking to expand in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. After initial discussions, GCA and the potential client signed a development agreement in December 2020 to further explore the project.

This cooperative agreement is still in place today and offers a direct example of public-private partnerships that can benefit the environment.

In 2017, the Authority's name was changed to Gulf Coast Authority to better capture its ability to provide wastewater and water reuse services as part of its mission to protect state waters while supporting growth.



Concurrently, GCA began working with the local regional water authority and municipality to form interlocal agreements so that all parties moved together in lockstep in a project that is a win for all involved.

This partnership approach to pulling the project together reflects GCA's philosophy.

"Our business model is based on building relationships," explained Phyllis Frank, Chief Technical Officer. "We worked closely with all the entities involved – customer, the City and TRA (Trinity River Authority) – to design a project that met everyone's needs."

The following year, all the pieces began to quickly fall into place. In February 2021, the local regional water authority passed a board resolution enabling GCA to provide industrial wastewater services in the region, and in November 2021, GCA and the City executed an interlocal agreement allow the Authority to provide industrial wastewater treatment services within the city.

With the local authorities on the same page, GCA and the industrial participant then signed a design, construct, and operate agreement in December 2021, one year after signing the initial development agreement.

"This project sets the template for how we grow," said Fazio Hale. "Protecting the waters of Texas, supporting industry to meet its compliance needs, partnering with local entities to their benefit – these are the ingredients of a recipe for successful growth in Texas."

"I am very pleased to see GCA's regional services expanding to support economic growth across the state," said Frank Jones, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "It is a testament to our expertise in providing the vital services of industrial wastewater and water reuse treatment. Moving forward, we will need to continue to be diligent in our process to support the environment and industry, and our Strategic Plan is designed to help guide us through thoughtful and purposeful growth."

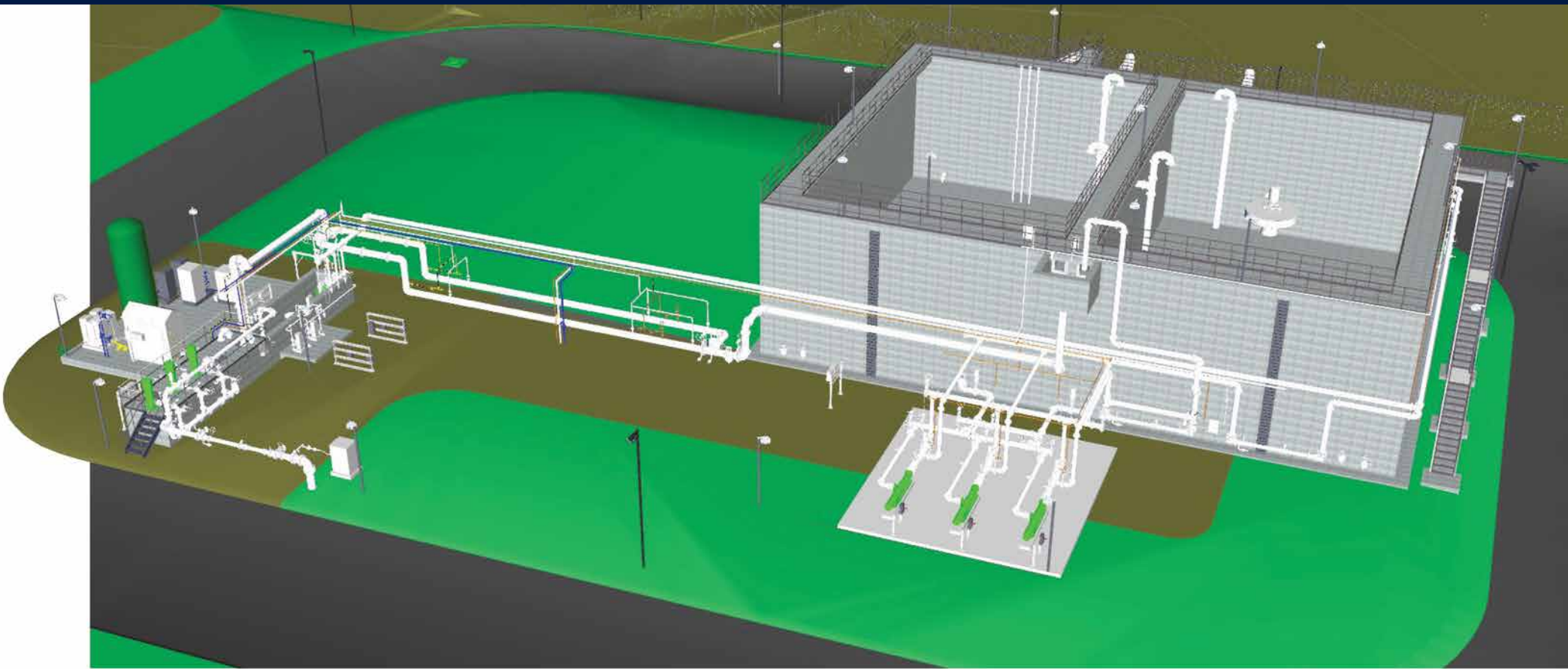
The facility will use dichlorination and pH adjustment to treat cooling water blowdown. The treated effluent will be discharged through an approximately three-mile pipeline, and through technological advancement, 90 percent of the water utilized is expected to be reused.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of GCA and to have the opportunity to contribute to the expansion of industrial wastewater treatment services in new

areas of the state and for new industries," said GCA Senior Project Manager Leslie "Les" Emswiler. "The combination of creating more opportunities for the residents of Texas while also protecting the waters of Texas is an extremely fulfilling mission."

"This project is going to give us the opportunity to fully show off our strengths as an organization and will send a strong message throughout the industry of the full capabilities of GCA," Enochs said. "The need for wastewater treatment facilities is not going away any time soon and due to the complexities and expenses involved, one's reputation in this industry means everything. We have a proud history as great wastewater treatment facility operators. This project is giving us the opportunity to build upon that legacy by putting us on the map as great wastewater treatment facility designers and builders, which can create a whole new division for us in GCA. I expect this project to be the spark that will lead to many more projects for us."





The facility will use creative treatment methods, including the use of carbon dioxide to control pH instead of harsher chemicals like sulfuric acid. This creates safer working conditions for GCA staff, removes the risk of a chemical spill, and allows GCA to reduce its carbon footprint.

“What is particularly exciting about this project is its efficiency of reuse,” said Jonathan Sandhu. “Nearly every drop of water will be treated and then reused – an approach that is increasingly important as the state deals with periodic droughts,” he added.

“With my background in water supply planning, it is particularly important to me to create and support facilities that help us to meet the growing demands for water as laid out in the Texas State Water Plan,” said Liz Fazio Hale. “Reuse makes up nearly 15 percent of the recommended water strategies outlined in the state’s plan. This is a real win-win-win-win for GCA, the participant, the local governments, and the State of Texas.”

“The RailPort project provide North Texas with a dedicated, not-for-profit industrial wastewater

facility – something most communities lack,” said Jones. “As has been demonstrated in communities served by other GCA facilities, this can be a major driver for industrial growth and the local economy while protecting water quality. We are excited about this project – and for a number of others now in the pipeline. As we enter our second half century, we are stepping up to meet Texas’ needs for ensuring water quality and fostering economic growth.”

FEATURES



Phyllis Frank Promoted

Phyllis Frank, previously Chief Administrative and Strategic Projects Officer, was promoted to Chief Technical Officer in January. She is responsible for engineering services, information technology, laboratory services, and operation of GCA's Odessa South Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility. She replaces Gordon Pederson, who is retiring after 33 years at GCA.

Frank has held a variety of GCA roles, including Chief Administrative and Strategic Projects Officer, Facility Manager and Director of Compliance – experience she credits with providing her with broad insights into the Authority's business processes. Previously, she worked as a program and project manager consultant and in environmental support for large industrial construction projects.

Her education includes a bachelor's degree in biology and a masters in environmental engineering. She also earned High Performance Leadership and Executive Leadership certificates from Cornell University and a Corporate Social Responsibility certificate from Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University.

Recently, Frank attended the National Association of Clean Water Industries Water and Wastewater Leadership Center (WWLC). The WWLC is specifically designed to arm utility executives with the management and leadership skills needed to meet today's challenges and rise to meet the challenges of the future. The cohort model provides people the opportunity to make lasting connections within the water and wastewater sector.

Frank shares her perspective on the industry and her goals for GCA in her new role.



to Chief Technical Officer

What first got you into this field?

When I entered college, I majored in biology with the idea of entering the medical field. By my junior year, I realized that while I liked the medical field from an academic perspective, I was unlikely to like it from a “working in it” perspective. I needed to pivot to something different that qualified me for work in a field that I was interested in learning and apt to enjoy working in.

In thinking about what to do next, I considered what opportunities there might be at the intersection of biology and engineering. One of the fields I discovered in this process was environmental engineering, and I ultimately decided to pursue a graduate degree in it.

I have been happy with that decision. It qualified me for a career in a field that I have maintained an interest in and have enjoyed working in.

What did you find attractive about the GCA opportunity?

I joined GCA a little over 20 years ago in a compliance role. My previous experience was in consulting on industrial wastewater, multimedia permitting and compliance projects, and program management. I was intrigued with the GCA role and opportunity because it was an owner’s role. Consultants work on a variety of projects and see how different organizations approach problem solving and decision making. However, opportunities to “see how projects turn out” is limited. Working from the owner’s perspective, you have the opportunity to live and operate with the projects that you execute. I really wanted to get experience from the owner’s perspective, and GCA provided the opportunity to work on some cutting-edge permitting concepts. On a personal note, joining GCA also reduced the amount of travel, which worked well with my personal life and was part of the recruiting pitch.

What are your goals for the new job?

My goals are to advance GCA’s Strategic Plan initiatives. We are making investments in our people and our business processes across the organization, and I will continue supporting those initiatives. In addition, I will continue to help support the Authority’s maintenance of current facilities and develop the Authority’s strategic growth, looking at our project execution and decision-making processes.

What do you see as the greatest opportunities? Challenges?

We have exciting opportunities to support economic development in Texas by supporting the development of industrial wastewater treatment capacity in the state. We are collaborating with stakeholders to help them achieve their goals. As highlighted in this issue, we are planning construction of a new facility in North Texas. We are excited to engage in similar opportunities.

A current challenge that we are seeing is one that is prevalent across the industry: recruiting and retaining talent. Engineering and project execution personnel are currently in high demand in the Greater Houston area.

What makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning?

I am excited every day for the opportunity to learn and contribute. I am curious and enjoy learning from others about what they do and how I might be able to help them.

Celebrating a Long Career: Gordon Pederson



Gulf Coast Authority's Gordon Pederson retired in January after more than 33 years in the water and wastewater resource management industry.

This spring, his achievements were recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), which presented him with its Distinguished Services Award. The organization also honored him for his many years of service on the NACWA Board of Directors. In addition, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) presented him with a Life Membership and the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) honored him with the W. Walter Chiang Lifetime Achievement Award for his demonstrated "continual and tireless contributions toward the improvement of the water environment" throughout a long, distinguished career in the wastewater treatment industry and in WEF/WEAT.

During his career with Gulf Coast Authority, Pederson served in multiple roles and held positions of increasing responsibility, culminating his GCA service as Chief Technical Officer.

Pederson began his career with GCA as Superintendent of Municipal Operations, overseeing operations of 14 municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the Houston area. In this role, he was responsible for the daily operations, budget, capital planning, and community involvement. Subsequently, he managed two different industrial wastewater treatment facilities including responsibilities for the daily operations, budget, capital planning, and community involvement.

As Chief Technical Officer, Pederson was responsible for the technical, process, and project engineering functions. He oversaw a municipal wastewater operation in the Houston area and an industrial wastewater operation in Odessa.

A past board member of the US Composting Council, he served as co-chair of the Standards and Practice Committee and as Secretary of the Texas Compost Advisory Council. He participated in Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA), including a term as President of the organization, and was a long-time Board member of NACWA.

Congratulations, Gordon, and thank you for your service!



GCA and GBRA Exchange Lab Tours

Earlier this year, Gulf Coast Authority's Central Lab kicked off a program to share knowledge and experiences with other state clean water laboratories.

"This is an amazing opportunity to network and gain insights into how other Texas laboratories operate," said Darla Fogie, Central Lab Manager. "We are all facing similar regulatory and workforce challenges, and our teams can all benefit by sharing tips and learning from each other."

First up in January, seven GCA lab members traveled to Seguin, Texas, to visit the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) facility. Host Chad Norris led GCA staff on a detailed tour of the lab, providing a bird's eye look at the instrumentation and technology at each workstation. Next was a presentation from Norris and his team, with the two groups discussing their experiences with operations, technology, software, and tools. GCA team members then had the opportunity to visit individually with GBRA chemists and get a more detailed look at the procedures and set-ups for the various analyses.

Then in March, five GBRA employees returned the visit. Fogie led the GBRA group on a tour of the Pasadena site, including the conventional, organic, metals, and microbiological labs. A lunchtime presentation covered the background and history of GCA's Central Lab and details of lab operations.

"The groups had a wide-ranging discussion regarding the set-up and possible functions of document control software Qualtrax, staffing, selection of equipment including biochemical oxygen demand instrumentation, specifics on instrument challenges, warehouse set-up, inventory management, and matrix differences between our different sample types," Fogie reported.

The team members exchanged contact information to continue drawing upon each other's experience and knowledge.

"This pilot project worked so well, we are planning similar knowledge-exchange visits with other state labs," Fogie said.



GCA Meets with Legislators, Seeks Authority

State Representative Dennis Paul has filed two pieces of legislation in the 88th Texas Legislative Session to assist GCA in its mission to protect the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices.

House Bill 3893 would provide GCA the option to meet regularly via telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication for the purposes of establishing a quorum, for voting, or of any other meeting purpose. Currently, the Board of Directors is composed of nine members spanning three counties, requiring more than 65 miles of travel for some members. The bill gives the Authority the ability to regularly conduct business without the added external pressure of attending in-person. Senator Mayes Middleton has filed its companion as Senate Bill 2336.

House Bill 4993 would expand and better define the type of projects that a development corporation created by GCA could finance under Chapter 501, Texas Local Government Code, as amended:

- educational and housing facilities in the same manner as a higher education facility authority under Chapter 53A, Education Code;
- health facilities in the same manner as a development corporation under Chapter 221, Health and Safety Code;
- the facilities or activities of an organization that is exempt from the payment of federal income taxes under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of that code;
- hotels, including convention center facilities or convention center complexes primarily used to host conventions and meetings; and
- storage infrastructure and related facilities for energy and alternative energy production or carbon capture.

To date the Authority has provided \$3.95 billion in financing assistance under its mandate. The changes to GCA's statute increase issuer access to the public markets, giving borrowers another financing option in their toolkit. If issuers can access funding in a quick and efficient manner, it helps reduce exposure to commodity costs, inflation and other business cycles, developmental delays, or issues – while keeping this financing business within the State of Texas.

The 88th Legislative Session runs through May 29, 2023.



Liz Fazio Hale, General Manager/CEO, and Frank Jones, Chair of the Board of Directors, traveled to Austin April 4th to provide testimony on HB 3893 and HB 4993 in the Texas House of Representatives.



Modifications



GCA Board of Directors (first photo, from left) Kevin Scott, Mark Schultz, Amber Batson, and Billy Enochs along with General Manager/CEO Elizabeth Fazio Hale visited the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate February 28 to talk about our mission to protect the waters of Texas and support economic development. Pictures include visits with State Representative Dennis Paul, Senator Tan Parker, Senator Drew Springer, and Senator Kevin Sparks (and wife Jill). The GCA team also visited with many other elected officials and their staff.

FACILITY UPDATES

Master Planning for the Future: Efficiency, Reliability, Growth

In May 2022, Gulf Coast Authority began efforts to develop a 20-year, Authority-wide Master Plan and implementation strategy.

The GCA team's first step was to select consultants to help guide the process, and nine firms responded to a request for qualifications. In August, a seven-person selection committee, comprised of senior managers, facility managers, and Technical Services, reviewed, interviewed, and scored submittals, selecting five finalists. After further review, GCA chose Black & Veatch to perform overall project management, capacity evaluations, and condition assessments, and Burns & McDonnell as regulatory subconsultant.

During first quarter 2023, Gulf Coast Authority kicked off work on phase one of its Facilities Master Plan in alignment with the second initiative of GCA's Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Maintain and Develop GCA Regional Facilities. This multi-year master planning effort will focus on asset management by

providing information to optimize the repair and replacement cycles at its wastewater treatment facilities, provide a basis for future changes, and help modernize the capital planning tools.

"GCA is excited to be working on the master plan," said Phyllis Frank, GCA Chief Technical Officer. "This modern, proactive approach will allow us to be more cost efficient year-after-year."

The master planning effort uses existing data and supplements this information with field-generated condition assessment data. This approach allows a more nuanced consideration of the repair and replenishment cycle.

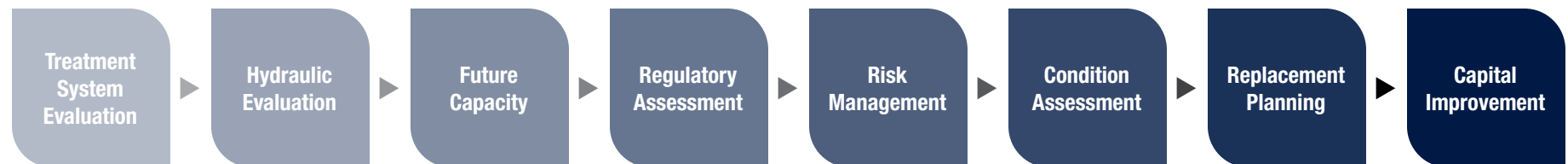
For each facility, the tasks include treatment and capacity evaluations, current and future regulatory assessments, risk management framework development, condition assessments, risk assessments, asset replacement plans, MPulse review, and capital improvement project (CIP)

prioritization and tool development. The schedule anticipates a project duration of approximately 20 months (March 2023 through November 2024).

A project kickoff meeting was held in late March with GCA and Black & Veatch teams discussing success factors, goals, and vision to develop a project charter.

The kickoff was followed by initial site visits to all five GCA facilities. As data gathering begins, the team is setting dates for weekly meetings and major milestones such as development of a risk management framework and CIP tools.

"Data will be aggregated in a manner that allows the assessment to be refreshed over time," said Jonathan Sandhu, GCA Technical Director. "We believe this approach allows us to target our capital expenditures in a manner that will deliver the most 'bang for our buck' in meeting customer needs and continued operational excellence."



VRBS Upgrades to Better Serve Customers

Gulf Coast Authority's Vince Bayou Receiving Station (VBRS) receives wastewater from portable chemical toilets, septic tanks, equipment/parking lot washdown streams, and some industrial non-hazardous wastewater. Recognizing many years ago that there was a disposal need for these types of streams, GCA's VBRS created a business model to support small businesses that require efficient, reliable unloading systems at a low cost.

As part of this business model, GCA is continually looking for opportunities to shorten delivery

turnaround times. One of the most recent projects at VBRS involved the upgrade of one of its two septage units. With the wide variety of wastewater coming into the VBRS, a septage unit is necessary to screen out solids, including rags and septage materials, from the wastewater prior to being sent to the Washburn Tunnel Regional Industrial Wastewater Facility for treatment. The new septage unit is capable of processing incoming wastewater approximately 40 percent faster than the one it replaced.

The average volume hauled into VBRS from

customers is approximately 53,000 gallons per month (2022). As part of future growth plans, VBRS is scheduled to replace one of the three storage tanks with a larger capacity tank to accommodate even more capacity in 2023.

"GCA welcomes businesses of all sizes to consider VBRS as their wastewater disposal site," said Denise Ehrlich, Washburn Tunnel and Vince Bayou Facility Manager. "Our goal is to be a partner in providing excellent wastewater management to all customers, large and small."



Bayport Upgrades Biosan Pipeline

Over the past four years, Gulf Coast Authority and its contractors have been constructing a new system to address internal corrosion and capacity limitations associated with the Bayport Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility's carbon steel influent biosan pipeline. The pipeline serves more than 75 industrial customers and two municipalities at GCA's largest facility.

In February, the GCA project team successfully completed the critical tie-in of the new biosan pipeline, enabling the transition of influent flow from the existing steel line to the new fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) pipeline and into Bayport's Main Lift Station (MLS) without interrupting plant operations or customer flows.

The first project of its kind at Bayport, the team effectively implemented a temporary 15,000 gallons per minute system to bypass the MLS for approximately five days while completing the construction tie-ins of the new pipeline sections into the MLS.

"Many thanks to the entire team – Tech Services, Operations, Maintenance, Compliance, and our General Contractor Boyer - for spending the weeks required to develop the sequencing plans and putting in the long field hours to support this critical milestone," said Jonté Greer, Assistant Director - General Engineering. "All of that effort culminated with incredibly smooth flow transitions out of the old pipeline, into the new system, and into the Main Lift Station."

Overall, the \$27.1 million Biosan Pipeline Upgrade project required 5,300 feet of 42-inch FRP and stainless piping. Crews had to conduct underground hand mining and pipe jacking where the line runs under Bay Area Boulevard and a Union Pacific Railroad spur. The project also includes a new fiber optic cable system to improve signal communications from the instrument transmitters on the pipeline.

The entire project wrapped up in March, with completion of the remaining pipeline segment and start-up of the fiber optic system.



The area before bypass operations.



Removal of the loop valve during bypass operations.



Opening the valve and introducing flow after tie-in completion.



New biosan in operation following completion of primary bypass.



CUSTOMER CORNER:

Bayport Adds Industrial Customers

Gulf Coast Authority's Bayport Facility, its largest, has experienced new growth over the past 18 months. Three existing customers have added new pipelines to GCA that allow for additional influent into the facility, and conversations are continuing with several potential new customers about their wastewater streams.

"We look at this as testament to our operational strength and our focus on customer service," said Scott Harris, Chief Operating Officer. "We are anticipating adding more than one million gallons per day wastewater influent for treatment."

One existing customer's new pipeline is already fully operational and the other two are under construction.

"The Bayport team stands ready to support this growth by collaborating with each individual customer on construction of a pipeline from their facility to GCA's right of way," said Facility Manager Kim Ontiveros. "From there, the GCA team scopes out necessary piping, valves, foundations, supports, flow meters, transmitters, autosampler pumps, associated tubing, wiring, and GCA control system updates."

Simultaneously, GCA's compliance team reviews the customer's application representations to work through permitting requirements.

"There are a lot of moving pieces," Ontiveros added, "but our experienced team makes it seamless for the customer."

Both Ontiveros and Harris stressed the importance of working closely with prospective customers to ensure GCA's system can handle the additional hydraulic and treatment capacities. The team undertakes a detailed technical review of the information provided in the customer application representations to ensure the system and regulatory requirements can be met. If the team identifies issues, they may pursue additional evaluations

including reactor study, toxicity testing, propose physical hydraulic improvements, or treatment upgrades to allow GCA to meet its water quality expectations and the customer needs.

The earlier GCA is engaged in the discussions on growth and/or change to a customer's influent stream, the easier it is to work through the process in a timely manner, Harris noted.

"Each department in GCA is involved in supporting the growth of our customer base through their efforts to safely design, build, operate, maintain, monitor, and ensure compliance so that GCA can continue to protect the waters of the State of Texas," he said.

AWARDS

WEAT/WEF Honors Go to Multiple GCA Recipients

Pederson Saluted For Lifetime Achievement

Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) celebrated the career of GCA's recently retired Chief Technical Officer Gordon Pederson with its W. Walter Chiang Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes a current or past WEAT member who has demonstrated continual and tireless contributions toward the improvement of the water environment throughout a long, distinguished career in the wastewater treatment industry and in WEAT/WEF (Water Environment Federation).

The association called Pederson "the definition of a public servant in the water and wastewater sectors," recapping his many contributions over the course of his 33-year career at Gulf Coast Authority as well as his efforts to advance the industry.



Fazio Hale Selected To Join Sludge Shovelers

The Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers or "5S" was founded in 1940 to encourage members to get involved. You cannot join the society – you must

be "selected" on the basis of merit. Within WEAT, induction into the prestigious society is based on "outstanding, meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty."

Liz Fazio Hale, General Manager/CEO, was one of 12 "shovelers" inducted this year for her "outstanding, meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty, including her significant contributions to this year's Texas Water Day as WEAT Co-Chair; legislative acumen and insight on behalf of WEAT members; and for increasing awareness and recruitment of WEAT membership."



Odessa South Wastewater Treatment Facility

GCA's Odessa Facility scored a win as the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Award for outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

The facility treats waste from one municipality, industrial plants via pipeline, and trucked-in waste, including septic tank and portable toilet wastes. It

boasts outstanding environmental compliance and safety record while providing reliable service to the City of Odessa and local industry.

WEAT noted: "Given the complex wastewater treated and the unique operating conditions, the Odessa Wastewater Treatment Facility is a model for industrial wastewater treatment."



40-Acre Wastewater Treatment Facility

GCA's 40-Acre Wastewater Treatment Facility was honored with WEAT's George W. Burke, Jr. Award, which recognizes municipal and industrial wastewater facilities for active and effective safety programs. WEAT points to its outstanding incident record and an organization-wide commitment to safety resulting in no recordable or reportable incidents since 2016.

The facility treats the waste from multiple industrial plants. Using an activated sludge process and chemical addition as needed, the facility provides treatment for multiple industrial dischargers as well as stormwater.



Texas Water 2023 Conference Attracts 6,000 Attendees

Texas Water 2023™, The Largest Regional Water Conference in the U.S.®, was in held in Houston in April, co-chaired by Venus Price, City of Houston, and Liz Fazio Hale, Gulf Coast Authority's General Manager/CEO.

The event attracted more than 6,000 attendees, including 15 GCA employees representing engineering, operations, compliance, and maintenance functions. Three GCA Board Members also took part: Amber Batson, Mark Schultz, and Robert Swanson.

Board members and staff visited the exhibition hall featuring 650 vendors, attended dozens of training sessions, volunteered in the operation/maintenance competitions, and gathered to support award recipients. GCA took home five awards (see facing page). GCA's Joanne MacDougall presented on two topics; Technical Director Jonathan Sandhu moderated the Industrial Track Technical Sessions; and Fazio Hale, moderated the Women of Water Breakfast Panel.

On the final day of the conference, GCA hosted some 25 visitors at its Bayport Industrial Wastewater Facility on an hour-long tour led by Facility Manager Kim Ontiveros with support from Ben Reese, Operations Supervisor; Joanne MacDougall, Assistant Director of Process; Jonté Greer, Assistant Director of Project; Anna Brown, Compliance and Administrative Supervisor; Mark Lindsay, Maintenance Supervisor; and Gerardo Ramos, Safety Coordinator.

"This was an incredible opportunity to showcase the outstanding work GCA is doing in wastewater and water management while learning from the experience of others," said Fazio Hale. "Texas Water was a tremendous success, thanks to the efforts of so many people, including many from our team."



GCA Wins WaterReuse Award

The WaterReuse Association recognized Gulf Coast Authority's Odessa South Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility with its Excellence in Action Award for advancing water recycling knowledge and practice. The award honors community leaders who demonstrate a commitment to water resiliency through the innovative use of recycled water for commercial operations, watershed restoration projects, irrigation, or other projects. GCA was recognized specifically for reuse of treated industrial effluent, preserving water from other sources, and supporting the economic engine for the Odessa/Midland area's oil and gas exploration.

Award recipients use water recycling in novel ways to solve water management challenges, advance policies that facilitate greater adoption of water recycling, and inspire others through their innovation and leadership. Water recycling, or water reuse, is the sustainable treatment and use of water multiple times within our communities. Water can be captured from homes and businesses, as well as from rain and saltwater, and can be cleaned with modern technologies for purposes including industrial cooling, environmental restoration, irrigation, and drinking.

PEOPLE

SCRIPTS: Going Above and Beyond

Peers and supervisors nominate team members who go above and beyond in demonstrating Gulf Coast Authority's core values: Safety, Communication, Reliability, Integrity, Planning, Teamwork, and Stewardship, for SCRIPTS awards.

Central Office

Jessica Blasky, Accountant at Central Office, received a SCRIPTS award highlighting her communication, reliability, and teamwork for enhancing customer contracts and improving the past-due notification process. The award was presented by Phyllis Frank, Chief Technical Officer (left).



Washburn Tunnel

Clarke Wolfe, Chief Operator at the Washburn Tunnel Facility, received a SCRIPTS award highlighting his reliability, teamwork, and planning during an unplanned loss of a tank used to contain a customer's feed of spent caustic. Without Wolfe's solution, there would have been an impact on Washburn Tunnel's processes and a disruption of services to the customer. The award was presented by Denise Ehrlich, Facility Manager (left) and Greg Seay, Operations Supervisor (right).



Washburn Tunnel

Kenneth Gasaway, Instrument & Controls Leadman at Washburn Tunnel, received a SCRIPTS award for his reliability and planning for proactively planning and executing the revamp of a discontinued Van Aire dryer unit, without changing the design or function. The award was presented by Denise Ehrlich, Facility Manager (left); Mike Morris, Maintenance Lead; Liz Fazio Hale, General Manager/CEO; and Scott Harris, Chief Operations Officer.



Retirements: Saluting Years of GCA Service



Charles “Choc” Harris joined GCA in 2012 as Facility Manager for GCA’s Odessa South Facility. He was charged with helping build our reputation and grow the reach of wastewater treatment in the Odessa/ Midland and Permian Basin areas. His prior experience in the Midland County Constable’s Office along with his operational background helped put Odessa South on the map.

After retiring last November, Harris now is assisting wife Betty and daughter Kadence in several business ventures. Congratulations and thank you, Choc, for your efforts in building Odessa South and enhancing the GCA brand in West Texas.



Rhonda Lancon, Central Lab, had been a regular fixture at the lab since beginning as a courier in August 2005 through her retirement in December 2022. Her 17-plus-year career included stints as a lab technician in both the Conventional and Organics Labs. That versatility and flexibility allowed Lancon to work with virtually everyone in the lab.

While retired from GCA, she is continuing to work as the chief bookkeeper at the church where her husband is the pastor. Congratulations and thanks for your efforts in making Central Lab successful, Rhonda!



Cliff Pabon, Chief Operator at 40-Acre Industrial Wastewater Facility, retired at the end of February 2023.

He joined GCA in 2000 as an Operator Trainee at GCA’s Blackhawk Facility before moving to the Bayport Facility as an Operator. He later transferred to 40-Acre where his colleagues called him the “go-to” guy among the operators and his fellow Chiefs. His expertise will be missed.

Pabon and wife Claudia plan to spend time together with their grandkids. Best wishes and congratulations on a well-earned retirement after 22-plus years at GCA, Cliff!



Kevin Perkins, also retired from 40-Acre as a Chief Operator in February. He began as an Operator Trainee at GCA’s Bayport Facility in 1988. In his almost 35-year career, Perkins progressed through the operator ranks before transferring to 40-Acre in the Texas City area. He was promoted to Chief Operator in 2014. We all wish Kevin well in his post-retirement endeavors and thank him for his service to GCA.

COMMUNITY

Trash Bash 2023: Cleaning Up our Watershed

Gulf Coast Authority volunteers once again took part in the 2023 River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash.® The largest single-day waterway cleanup event in Texas, the annual effort debuted in 1994 with a mission to clean up and promote a healthy Galveston Bay watershed. Over the years, Trash Bash has tapped close to 120,000 volunteers who have collected approximately 2,400 tons of trash, 23 tons of recycling, and 12,000 tires.

Thanks to the many GCA employees who participated in the March 25th event. They focused their efforts on two of this year's 14 clean-up sites: Galveston Bay's Virginia Beach Preserve, with a team led by Diane Maloy, and Sims Bayou, spearheaded by Denise Ehrlich.

Trash Bash Success by the Numbers:

- 2,456 volunteers
 - 960 youth
 - 290 Scouts
- 108 miles of waterways
- 40.51 tons of trash
- 219 tires
- 760 pounds of recyclables

A key component of the program is sharing information and hands-on education tools on how to prevent trash from entering local waterways, including bayous and streams, and eventually making their way to Galveston Bay.

As a long-time Trash Bash sponsor, GCA encourages its volunteers to also help behind the scenes year-round as well with event planning and logistics.



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Protecting the waters of the State of Texas through environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater and water management practices.

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