**EAST RANGE WATER PROJECT**

**Community Outreach February 2023**

**For City of Aurora & Town of White Current & Future Utility Customers**

**THE NEED**

* The East Range Water Board was established in July 2021 by the City & Town to CREATE a New East Range Water Supply System (called The Project)
* Over ten years of planning, engineering design, and financing The Project have gotten us here
* The Project is progressing rapidly thanks to recent funding approval
* This initial phase of The Project will combine the current City of Aurora and Town of White utility customers with the addition of utilities in Scenic Acres
* The new water source will be Lake Mine with a new water plant built next to the current Public Works facility in Aurora
* The final phase of The Project will be the addition of the City of Biwabik and the City of Hoyt Lakes in the future
* The Project is needed because of aged infrastructure, rising pit waters, and poor water quality
* Recently detailed articles were published in the East Range Times

**THE PLAN**

* Project infrastructure engineering and plant design was completed by Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.
* All permitting & environmental review required is either done or in progress
* All legal work is in progress or completed for property easements and land leases by Fryberger Law
* Construction bids will be published in Spring of 2023 (date to be determined soon)
* The Project construction timeline is 2 years
* Once complete, the existing St. James Pit intake and water treatment facilities will be decommissioned

**THE COST – Estimated $24.8 million**

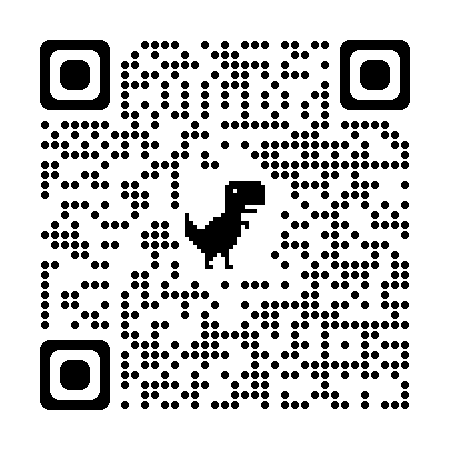
* **$ 7.5 million - paid from State grants -** authorized in the 2018 and 2020 State of Minnesota bonding bills
* **$ 6.5 million** - **paid from federal appropriations** - (“Congressionally Designated Spending”)
* **$ 1.0 million** – **paid from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for Phase 1 water plant build**
* **$ 150,000** – **paid from St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant funds**
* **$ 5 million - $8 million** **– paid from the** **State’s Water Infrastructure Fund (“WIF”**)
* **$1 million** **– paid from the Army Corps of Engineers**
* **$3 million to $5 million** – **paid by City of Aurora & Town of White** - PFA Drinking Water Revolving Fund
* **80% of the costs of The Project will be paid by outside funding sources and not the utility customers**

**HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME AS A TAXPAYER & UTILITY CUSTOMER?**

* Water system facilities and operational costs are paid through “enterprise” funds
* Enterprise funds are not funded by real property tax revenues (levies)
* Monthly water utility service rates pay for these costs
* Monthly user rates will need to increase in the near future to pay for The Project (called affordable share)
* The current monthly rate as of January 1, 2023 is $30.25 per month
* The NEW estimated monthly cost will be at least $37.16 per month for users (based on estimated affordability rate)

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

* Community Outreach will continue over the next few months
* Community Meeting(s) will provide detailed information about the Project
* **Watch your mailbox for a SAVE THE DATE Post card**
* **Learn more about the East Range Water Project:** [**https://www.aurora-mn.com/**](https://www.aurora-mn.com/)[**https://www.townofwhite.com/**](https://www.townofwhite.com/)

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**PROJECT AREA & WATER TREATMENT PLAN DESIGN**

Map

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**Diagram

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