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BIRMINGHAM WATER SYSTEM GETTING MUCH-NEEDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN 2023 LAKE PURDY DAM STABILITY REHABILITATION INCLUDED AMONG MANY OTHER PROJECTS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (December 16, 2022) – The Birmingham Water Works (BWW) will spend more than \$72.3 million in 2023 for infrastructure improvements to continue bringing the purest and highest quality water to more than 770,000 people in the greater Birmingham metro area.

This includes \$25 million for the BWW’s pipeline replacement program, \$18.2 million for maintenance and repair projects, \$18 million for general capital, technology, and distribution projects, and \$2 million for capital improvements for the Lake Purdy Dam Stability Rehabilitation project.

Built between 1906 and 1910, the Lake Purdy reservoir supplies raw water to BWW’s largest water treatment plant, which can produce 80 million gallons per day of treated water. The rehabilitation project includes construction of an extensive downstream concrete buttress, comprehensive grouting of bedrock, increased protection from weathering and erosion, replacement of inlet and outlet valves, replacement of the dam’s bridge, and multiple environmental and cultural assessments to support permitting and compliance with the Birmingham Water Work Watershed Policy and upgrading of the dam’s access road.

Birmingham Water Works Assistant General Manager Derrick Murphy said “Lake Purdy is one of the jewels in the crown of our reservoir system, and we want to make sure it remains structurally sound for generations to come. We are glad to be under way with this and all the other major projects coming in 2023.”

Murphy said key capital projects including the Carson Loop Phase 6D and Highway 79 - Kiowa Road distribution improvements (\$4.5 million) are also included in the 2023 plan.

ABOUT BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS BOARD: Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works Board serves 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network. For more information about the Birmingham Water Works Board, media inquiries, or tours of our museum, please call 205-244-4225 or visit www.bwwb.org.

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