

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 22, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Media Day at Mill Creek Drainage Relief Tunnel Project – December 3, 2019**

Dallas Water Utilities is pleased to announce that the Mill Creek Drainage Relief Tunnel has reached a major milestone with the completion of the fully assembled tunnel-boring machine (TBM). With the permission of the State Fair of Texas, the TBM was named Big Tex for its size, proximity to the State Fair, and iconic name known around the world. Big Tex is the largest TBM ever assembled in the state of Texas and is currently the largest tunnel project underway in the United States. During construction, it will be the largest hard rock tunneling project in the world.

The Mill Creek Drainage Relief Tunnel is a five-mile underground tunnel that will provide 100-year flood protection for nearly 6,000 commercial and residential properties in east and southeast Dallas. The tunnel project will provide drainage and flooding relief to the Baylor Hospital area, the area south of Buckner Park, the Fair Park area, and the State-Thomas area near Woodall Rodgers Freeway. The current drainage systems in these areas were constructed 50 to 70 years ago and only provide two to five-year flood protection, which led to major flooding in 1995, 2003, 2006 and 2009.

The TBM will be utilized to excavate a tunnel approximately 30 feet in diameter and designed to carry a maximum flow of nine million gallons per minute. The tunnel design was completed by Halff Associates and is being constructed by Southland Mole Joint Venture. Construction began in spring 2018 and is slated for completion in 2023. Additional information about the project can be found at <http://millcreektunnel.com/>.

It is our pleasure to extend an invitation for you to view the TBM during Media Day on December 3, 2019. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will include a monumental signing of the cutter head. This will be the last opportunity to view the TBM before it is moved into the tunnel. The event will be held at an active construction site that is closed to the public.

Please contact Estela Ornelas at estela.ornelas@dallascityhall.com to confirm your attendance at the Mill Creek Tunnel Media Day by November 29, 2019. Transportation is scheduled to leave City Hall from L1 Green at 10:30 a.m. and return around 12:15 p.m.

Majed A. Al-Ghafry
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors