

West U Currents 2025 Winter Edition – Final

Leveraging COs to Empower Our Infrastructure

Back in September, our City Council put forth an intent to issue Certificates of Obligation (COs) for the purpose of funding key areas that are essential for supporting the City's infrastructure and utility systems. COs provide a reliable finance option for the City to address specific needs for strategic purposes – like necessary improvements to our water systems.

These COs are also helping us to:

- Continue the replacement of cast-iron waterlines around the city
- Provide improvements to increase the size of the Wakeforest Water Plant distribution lines
- Realize design funds to replace the Milton Water Plant Ground Storage Tank and Pump Room with a compact design and the addition of pump space
- Rehabilitate the Wakeforest Elevated Storage Tank (EST) and Ground Storage Tank interior and exterior surfaces to ensure proper maintenance

By leveraging the City's strong fiscal health, and careful budgetary planning, we can use COs to directly invest in infrastructure that keeps the water flowing into our systems so that the City can meet current and future demands. As West U invests in our water infrastructure, I am happy to support this financing strategy to address immediate system improvements to our overall distribution capacity.

This slate of water system improvements will also assist us as the City Council considers long-term solutions to the Bellaire EST. The Bellaire and Wakeforest ESTs serve two primary purposes: applying consistent water pressure to our homes and storing water in order to balance demand during peak times and emergencies. The Bellaire EST was originally constructed in 1935, and, while there are no immediate concerns regarding this tank, the city must move responsibly to prepare for when this tank must be replaced and taken offline – which could impact our water pressure if we do not have other system improvements in place.

I look forward to sharing more updates on these important water infrastructure projects as their designs get underway over the next few months.