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## CLEAN WATER: HORNSBY BEND BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PLANT UPGRADES

**Program Name:** Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Austin Water - Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Facility)

**Contact:** Jules Parrish, Austin Water Utility (Email)

**Federal Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency

**Federal Grant Name:** Clean Water State Revolving Fund - ARRA

**Award Amount:** \$31,815,000

**Type of Award:** Competitive

**Programs Supported:** Hornsby Bend Biosolids Composting Pad Expansion; Hornsby Bend Digester Upgrades and Plant-Wide Sustainability

### Program Description

After a competitive application process, the Texas Water Development Board awarded a zero-interest, thirty-year loan to the Austin Water Utility, totaling \$31,815,000, in November 2009. The loan will save Austin Water Utility customers approximately \$30.7 million in debt service payments. This award represents 80% of the total ARRA "Green Reserve" funding allocated statewide by the Texas Water Development Board through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The following green infrastructure projects at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Facility will be funded with this loan.

**Compost Pad Expansion for Dillo Dirt Production - \$6,949,800.** Clean Water State Revolving loan funding will be used to construct a 15-acre concrete pad to double the composting area where Dillo Dirt is produced. Dillo Dirt is an award-winning product that results from one of the City of Austin's major recycling efforts. Curbside yard trimmings collected by Solid Waste Services are combined with digested biosolids and composted to produce a commercially available, Class A soil conditioner. The composting improvements will enhance onsite solids handling capacity, decrease off-site land application and reduce approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel consumption annually by 2012.

**Biosolids Digesters and Plant-Wide Sustainability Upgrades - \$27,951,000.** Clean Water State Revolving loan funding will be used for biosolids digester upgrades and plant-wide energy efficiency improvements to substantially increase digester gas production and capture. Process control enhancements will optimize current energy consumption and improve odor control. Sludge dewatering improvements will provide for increased capacity and reduced operation costs. Plant-wide improvements to the heating and ventilation systems will reduce energy consumption and improve personnel safety. Electrical improvements will enhance plant-wide operational reliability. Most significantly, biosolids digester upgrades will increase process efficiency, reduce the use of petroleum-based polymers and enhance production and capture of digester gas, a renewable energy source that will ultimately be used to generate electricity. A

separate biogas generator project in partnership with Austin Energy is anticipated to produce up to 1.75 MW of green electricity annually.

The total carbon footprint reduction from all ARRA stimulus loan projects is expected to be approximately 6,500 metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions per year by 2012.

**This project is complete.**

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