



TOWN OF BLANCHARD

Jim Galambos, Mayor

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BLANCHARD, LOUISIANA 71009

www.townofblanchard.us

Aldermen:
John Fuller
Jeff Guin
Jimmy Whittington

Alderwomen:
Patsy Lee
Judy Presley

Chief of Police
Gary Presswood

Town Clerk
Candy Foshee

September 3, 2020

Mr. Todd A. Hopkins,
Dist. 1 Commissioner
Caddo Parish Commission
505 Travis Street, Suite 110
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

Re: Water Facilities Improvements
(Bel-Di-Gil Consolidation)
Town of Blanchard, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

The Town of Blanchard wishes to formally request \$1,100,000 in funding from the Parish of Caddo (Caddo Parish Commission) for constructing water facilities improvements in north-central Caddo Parish. As described in our recent zoom meeting, the Town recently received \$3,693,200 in funding from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) through that agency's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) system consolidation program. These funds will be used to construct a water transmission main between the Town of Blanchard and the Bel-Di-Gil Water System (Belcher, Dixie, & Gilliam communities) that will allow for consolidation of the Bel-Di-Gil Water System into the Town's water system. Completion of the project will address recurring water quality violations in the Bel-Di-Gil Water System that directly affect public health and safety and that have been cause for regulatory/enforcement action by LDH.

Due to funding limitations in the system consolidation program, LDH was only able to commit \$3,692,200 toward the project. That funding is sufficient to construct 8"-12" water transmission mains to connect the Blanchard and Bel-Di-Gil water systems. Those mains have hydraulic capacity to meet anticipated water demand in the Bel-Di-Gil Water System but are undersized for meeting long-term water demand in the Interstate 49 corridor including commercial and industrial development along the path of the interstate. Increasing the size of the proposed water mains to 12"-16" diameter will greatly increase availability of water to all areas of northern Caddo Parish and will allow for interconnectivity with other large diameter water transmission mains in the Town of Vivian and in the Town of Oil City.

Installation of larger 12"-16" diameter water mains will virtually ensure that the Parish of Caddo, the Town of Blanchard, and/or other governmental subdivisions do not have to invest additional funds in future years to upgrade or improve water facilities in the Bel-Di-Gil area. The Town of Blanchard previously invested over \$17,000,000 in its water treatment and distribution systems and will be able to

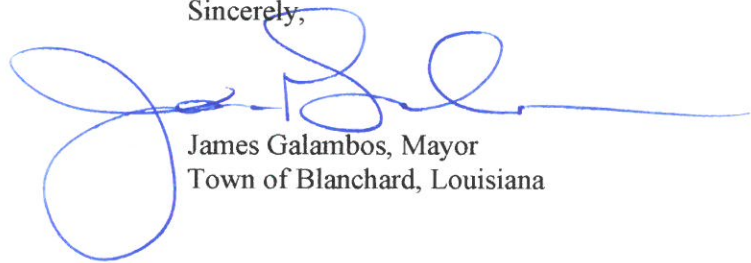
leverage that investment through consolidation of the Bel-Di-Gil Water System. The Town also anticipates further leveraging its investment by initiating bulk water sales to the Town of Oil City in the near future.

We understand that the Parish of Caddo previously partnered with the Town of Vivian and the Town of Oil City to upsize water transmission mains on La. Hwy. 170 and La. Hwy. 530. This project presents a unique opportunity for the Parish to partner with the Town of Blanchard in making a similar investment in the utility infrastructure in northern Caddo Parish. As on those completed projects, funds requested from the Parish of Caddo will only be used for direct expenses associated with upsizing the proposed water main from 8"-12" to 12"-16" as indicated on the attached *Project Map*. All costs will be clearly documented based on construction bids received for the planned water mains as well as for the alternative larger diameter water mains so that the Parish has a full accounting of the funding it contributes.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the Caddo Parish Commission in advancing this visionary project that will greatly improve the quality of life for residents throughout northern Caddo Parish. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information concerning this matter.

With my best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Galambos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Galambos, Mayor
Town of Blanchard, Louisiana

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Woodrow Wilson, Jr.
Parish Administrator & CEO
Parish of Caddo
(with enclosures)

Dr. Ken Ward, Project Manager
Public Works Engineering
Parish of Caddo
(with enclosures)

Mr. James A. Hagan, Jr., P.E.
BALAR Associates, Inc.
(with enclosures)