May 12, 2025

Dear Mayor and members of Bellaire City Council,

Regarding the future of the Bellaire wastewater treatment plant, for a number of reasons I believe the loss of the plant would be detrimental to Bellaire residents. The ballot language for the recent bond issues was at the least misleading, and I believe if Bellaire been clear about using the bonds in Prop B for the demolition of the WWTP and moving the service to Houston, it would not have passed.

My suggestion is to have a second and even third company inspect the current plant and report their findings. LAN has recently overseen construction of plants in Conroe and Galveston. Get their opinion on whether the current plant be rehabbed, and if so, at what cost? Council recently approved a $3 million dollar contract to Ardurra, surely the City can afford another inspection or two of the WWTP.

If a new plant is suggested, build a downsized plant on the Edith St site, that will be abandoned when Public Works moves to the Glenmont site. The old plant can still operate during the construction. We need those estimates from more than one company for the cost of a new plant of adequate size and elevation in that location.

Instead of swapping Ruffino Hills, sell it to the highest bidder and apply the $10.5 million or whatever is realized from the sale, along with the $30 million in bonds, as payment. If more is needed then use the $40 million in bonds, find a way to convert them to allow financing of infrastructure. The large plant in Conroe was recently constructed for $72 million, the contract for Pirates Beach, which is elevated and completely rebuilt, is $23 million while remaining in operation.

Cypress Ditch is an unknown, there seems to be no additional funding, and I find no approval of the plan by HCFCD nor do I understand why Bellaire is responsible for a Houston ditch. In addition, I've seen no plans or costs to build those detention areas.

I still believe any decision for demolition should be on the ballot, left up to the residents this coming November. The idea of 7 or possibly as few as 4 residents on City Council approving this critical decision is appalling. But if this does go to City Council for a vote I believe any members of Council who are involved with HDR Engineering, Ardurra, or the City of Houston should recuse themselves.

Thank you,

Jane McNeel