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January 26, 2015

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## **Waco to Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony for Brazos River Demonstration Wetland**

The City of Waco, in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, Texas Water Development Board and Baylor University, will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the Brazos River Demonstration Wetland tomorrow (01/27/15) morning at 10:30 a.m., next to the Waco Metropolitan Area Sewerage System (WMARSS) Central Treatment Plant at 1147 Treatment Plant Road.

The Brazos River Demonstration Wetland will investigate whether an innovative constructed wetland design can reduce or remove endocrine disrupting compounds that may occur in treated wastewater that will be recycled through an environmental buffer and used to augment drinking water supplies.

The demonstration wetland will contain engineered surface and subsurface treatment zones as well as passive aeration units that incorporate flowing cascades and turbulent stream channels.

Some concern may exist over the potential for endocrine disrupting compounds to adversely affect human health or ecosystems when treated wastewater is placed into an environmental buffer and reused to help augment drinking water supplies.

"Water reuse projects employing constructed treatment wetland projects appear promising for reducing a variety of contaminants, and can be more cost-effective to implement and maintain than traditional engineered systems," Reclamation Supervisory Program Coordinator Collins Balcombe said.

The demonstration wetland is a collaborative, federal-state-local partnership to design, construct, and monitor the demonstration wetland. The partnership includes a multi-disciplinary team from the Bureau of Reclamation, Waco Water Utilities Services Department, U.S. Geological Survey, Texas Water Development Board and Baylor University.

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