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For immediate release

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CLCWA Begins Digging Pilot Site at Exploration Green Phase 1

Clear Lake City Water Authority's contractor Paskey Incorporated has begun excavation of the Exploration Green Phase 1 flood detention area with completion of the initial excavation at the east end of Phase 1 area planned for March 2016. About two months after the pilot project is complete, excavation will start on the remainder of Phase 1.

The Phase 1 detention area, located behind the Clear Lake City Recreation Center and between Diana Ln., Reseda Dr. and Ramada Dr., will be dry initially with only naturally occurring rainwater and groundwater as a permit amendment is reviewed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which has been informed of the excavation. After the TCEQ permit is issued, a six-foot water level will be maintained in the detention pond.

Extensive efforts are underway to minimize any inconvenience to residents or disturbance to the environment, and to maximize safety for all. Normal work hours for Paskey, Inc. are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A fabric fence around the construction area will keep soil on site during rain. Dump trucks will exit onto Reseda between Ramada and Fairwind across a special exit surface to shake loose dirt from trucks. Streets adjacent to the site will be cleaned nightly. Paskey personnel, trucks and equipment will be clearly identified.

The Section 1 trail near the excavation is now closed. The public is encouraged to visit the other four sections of Exploration Green that remain open for green space enjoyment. Those who would normally use the Phase 1 trails to travel to other Exploration Green sections should use Reseda Dr. as an alternate route around the construction site.

"It's great to begin work creating the Exploration Green's flood detention areas," said CLCWA President John Branch. "The excavated pond area will immediately provide added storm water detention, while expected approval of ponds and wetlands will follow as soon as possible."

"Exploration Green Conservancy supporters are ramping up projects to provide native trees, shrubs and grasses for the first section," according to Frank Weary, EGC chair. "As the holiday season approaches, we are reaching out to local supporters and citizens to ask for donations for park amenities like hike/bike trails and park equipment, and for volunteer work at the site."

"This is a citizen grassroots effort to create a beautiful green space recreation area and improve the quality of life in the Clear Lake area," said Doug Peterson, vice-chairman of the Exploration Green Conservancy.

Visit the Exploration Green Conservancy at <http://www.ExplorationGreen.org> and click on “Donate” to make a contribution via credit card, PayPal or via postal mail. Be an active part of the community and join with us to make the area a great asset that we all take great pride in.

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