

# Still Targeting September

## Blaus Wasser Eyeing Fall Completion of Seminole Fresh Water Pipeline

**By Dustin Wright  
Sentinel Managing Editor**  
A September target date is still in the sights of both officials with the City of Seminole and a private water resource management company for the completion of a freshwater supply line from Winkler County into the City of Seminole's potable water system.  
In a late February letter addressed to the City of Seminole, obtained by the *Seminole Sentinel*, Ken Jacobson, President of Blaus Wasser, LLC explained the company's current happenings with the project.  
"I am pleased to report that all efforts are developing satisfactorily and we

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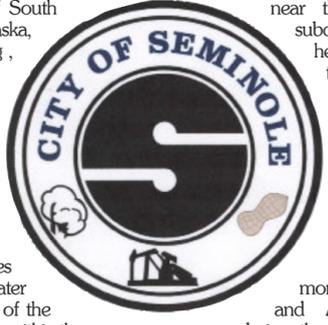
expect to achieve water delivery in September, 2013," wrote Jacobson, in a one-page letter dated Feb. 25. "Work is continuing feverishly on all aspects of the project."  
In the fall of 2012, the City of Seminole agreed to a 40-year agreement with the limited liability company which offers development of new sources of water for municipal and industrial use, as well as complete design engineering, construction, project management and long-term financing package for water related projects, to "furnish to the (City of Seminole) a supply of raw water for an initial period of 40 years, subject

to renewal or extension and on the terms and conditions as set forth in their agreement."  
"The (City of Seminole)," per the contract, "agreed to purchase a minimum of 630.72 million gallons each fiscal year at the anticipated rate of between 400,000 gallons per day and 3 million gallons per day during the life of the agreement."  
The initial cost of the venture, according to City of Seminole officials, breaks down to \$2.30 per 1,000 gallons of water.  
Tommy Phillips, Seminole City Administrator, said in last Monday's update on the project with members of the Seminole City Council, that he's met with project officials who assured him no delays related to the project have occurred to this point, including pre-clearance

from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for pipeline plans on the project.  
Phillips added the company would be transporting treated, potable water from the Winkler County area, where the company possessed some "650 sq miles" of water rights.  
"I know there were some questions in the past on where the water would be coming from, and from what they've told me, this is where we'll be getting our water," said Phillips.  
The fresh water supply, which will be treated by the company to meet state testing requirements for fresh water use for Texas municipalities, will tie into the City's fresh water well field, south of Seminole. From that origin, the water will be brought into the community through the City's fresh water infrastructure system for treatment and distribution.  
The contract agreement between the private company and the City of Seminole further states "(Blaus Wasser) will provide and maintain meters, valves and controls, including backflow prevention assemblies as necessary, in order to provide a proper water transmission line connection to the (City of Seminole). (Blaus Wasser) will arrange to have its meters tested and calibrated annually by (Blaus Wasser) staff or by an independent company qualified to do such work. (Blaus Wasser) shall provide the (City of Seminole) with a copy of the test report."  
Currently, the City of Seminole relies solely on water drawn from the Ogallala Aquifer for its customers.  
The Ogallala, also known as the High Plains Aquifer, is a vast yet shallow underground water table aquifer located beneath the Great Plains in the United States. One of the world's largest aquifers, it covers an area of approximately 174,000

sq miles, in portions of the eight states of South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.  
According to the online resource, Wikipedia, the aquifer provides drinking water to 82 percent of the people who live within the aquifer boundary.  
City of Seminole officials, hastened push for conservation issues came after a near-rationing implementation by the City of Seminole, due to the rapid depletion of ground water being pulled from the City's various wellfields during the 2011 calendar year, the driest year on record for the City of Seminole.  
However, rationing was avoided, thanks in part to the addition of two new water wells south of

the Seminole City Limits, near the La Tierra subdivision, which helped address the city's additional water needs to make it through last year's hot and dry summer months.  
Between the months of May and August 2011, during the worst drought on record for the City of Seminole, local water customers used roughly 361.8 million gallons of water. For the 2011 calendar year, the City of Seminole used around 733.9 million gallons of water.  
Blaus Wasser, according to the company's website and City of Seminole officials, currently provides water to some 160-plus municipalities within the southwestern United States.



## Brownfield PD Closes Case on Recent Double Homicide

BROWNFIELD -- Officials with the Brownfield Police Dept. released new details from last week's double homicide in the 600 block of Main Street.  
The noon-hour murders were followed by a two-vehicle crash that claimed the life of the perpetrator in what officials have deemed a vehicular suicide, according to investigators.  
The incident began shortly before noon, the report says, when Jose Roel DeLuna, 42, of Brownfield entered the home of Jesus Antonio Contreras, 70, and Rosa Mermella Contreras, 63, looking for their daughter, his estranged wife.  
DeLuna left his job at the TDCJ Montford Unit in Lubbock that morning, telling supervisors he had a meeting with an attorney.  
Instead, he made his way to Brownfield and to his in-laws' residence at 619 E. Main.  
Another woman, whom the Brownfield News has chosen not to identify, also was in the home and fled the residence when the shooting started.  
"Witnesses tell us that Mr. DeLuna was in the home for about thirty minutes when the argument escalated and he started shooting," said Tye Langehennig, lead investigator on the case. "After he was there for a while, Mr. Contreras had enough and told him to get out. At that time, he was pushed to the ground and shot in the chest with a 9 mm Baretta."  
Contreras was shot a second time as well, this bullet to the face.  
The investigator said at that moment, the third woman in the house fled through a kitchen door and was fired on, but not hit by the bullet, which went through the outer wall of the home.  
She then ran around the house and knocked on a neighbor's window, but got no answer so she hid in a storage building behind the residence.  
Another bullet went through the back of the house, leading police to believe that DeLuna fired in her direction a second time.  
According to the report, he then went to a bedroom where Mrs. Contreras had locked herself in and picked up a telephone to call for help.  
She was shot there once in the head before dialing out on the phone, Langehennig said.  
Neighbors who heard the argument and then the shots fired report that DeLuna walked calmly out of the residence with no weapon visible, got into his car and drove off.  
"It appears to all have been very cold and calculated," the investigator said.  
Five shell casings were found inside the home and the gun was recovered at the scene of the car accident near Plains with five bullets missing from its 17-round clip.  
The gun belonged to DeLuna and was purchased legally some time ago for home protection.  
That accident, a head-on collision with a west-bound 18 wheeler on U.S. 380, was recorded by a dash camera mounted inside the truck, Langehennig said.  
"It showed that the wreck was

deliberate," he said. "He swerved into the oncoming lane and when the truck driver moved his vehicle to the shoulder, DeLuna continued to drive into its path and they eventually ended up colliding in the bar ditch with the car hitting the driver's side gas tank under the truck's door."  
The damage was significant and DeLuna's injuries were severe, but he was alive and coherent when paramedics arrived.  
The truck's driver was not injured in the incident.  
The time of the wreck was 1:10, one hour after the murders occurred. He was pronounced dead in the Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City at 2:53 p.m. Tuesday, a result of massive chest injuries suffered in the collision.  
He was not being chased

by police or any other law enforcement when the wreck occurred.  
The nearest patrol unit was more than 10 miles away, according to the report.  
Langehennig told the *Brownfield News* that the case is now closed and he said the investigation was conducted professionally and smoothly by the Brownfield Police Department.  
"Everyone went to work and did what they needed to do," he said. "It is a terrible situation, but we did handle it well."

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