



## **Wastewater Service Area**

The wastewater system serves a population of 324,074 within a 137 square mile area of the Corpus Christi city limits. Water used to remove waste comes from residential, commercial establishments and industries. This wastewater is collected and transported to treatment facilities through a system of pipes and pump stations, then treated to standards imposed by state and federal regulations. The resulting effluent is discharged to a receiving watercourse or reused for landscape irrigation.

The wastewater collection system consists of over 1,282 miles of gravity mains interwoven with approximately 100 lift stations. On average, 28 million gallons of wastewater are treated daily at six wastewater treatment plants.

City wastewater staff assume the responsibility to maintain, repair and rehabilitate every aspect of the wastewater collection system except for that portion on private property. On an annual basis, wastewater staff respond to approximately 17,000 customer service calls, install 780 clean outs and repair, replace or rehabilitate about 220 manholes and clean out 1.1 million feet of wastewater mains. One hundred sixty-eight trained professionals operate and maintain the collection system, pump stations and wastewater treatment plants.

## **Wastewater Pretreatment**

The City of Corpus Christi Pretreatment Program operates in accordance with federal law which requires publicly owned treatment works to regulate the volume and character of non-domestic wastes treated within the wastewater system. Many industries produce wastewater from manufacturing processes that may not be compatible with normal domestic wastewater treatment technology. In these cases, the industries are required to pretreat their wastes to an acceptable level prior to discharging them into the City system.

The program regulates and issues permits to major industries defined as "Significant Industrial Users"; as well as numerous smaller industries that have a potential to impact the wastewater treatment system. In addition, all restaurants are inspected and sampled on a rotating basis to determine the strength of wastes from food preparation activities and to make sure that grease interceptor units are functioning and maintained properly. Restaurants are surcharged for the additional cost involved with treating their high strength wastes.

The Pretreatment Program operates a sampling and analysis program that looks for the presence of toxic pollutants in the treatment system. Analyses are regularly performed that indicate concentrations of dissolved metals, organic chemicals, and pesticides. Sources of these pollutants are actively investigated and source reductions or controls are implemented wherever possible. Effluent toxicity tests (also known as biomonitoring) are performed as well to reveal toxic materials that cannot be specifically identified.