




INMAN-CAMPOBELLO WATER DISTRICT

A Resilient Water Future: ICWD's New Water Treatment Plant





ICWD's new water treatment plant will play a vital role in expanding our water sources to provide high-quality, affordable water for our growing community.

Beginning in May of 2024, the Inman-Campobello Water District (ICWD) began construction on a 4 million gallons per day (MGD) water treatment plant (WTP). This construction involves two locations: The North Pacolet River intake facility, located in Fingerville, SC, and the water treatment plant, which is located close to Inman, SC at the intersection of S.C. Hwy. 292 and Hickory Nut Road.

The project also includes approximately 7 miles of large diameter pipe to transport the water from the North Pacolet River to the water treatment plant. Further, there will be approximately 4 miles of large pipeline to transport the water that has been treated at the WTP to the heart of the ICWD's distribution system, which is the Windmill Hill Tank system.

Finally, the project includes a new administration building, which will house the laboratory necessary for the plant, and a new maintenance building. This building will support the distribution system's personnel and equipment, as well as what is needed to maintain the water treatment plant.



Q: Why is it necessary to build a WTP?

A: The ICWD and other water systems in our County have experienced tremendous growth over the last several years. The ICWD's customer base has more than doubled over the last 20 years. Having more customers requires larger drinking water capabilities, including water treatment.

Water Source



Q: Since ICWD is building a water treatment plant with the water coming from the North Pacolet River, where does my water come from now?

A: The ICWD purchases drinking water from the Broad River Water Authority, located in Rutherford County, NC. Prior to 2008, the ICWD purchased all the water for its customers from Spartanburg Water (SWS). That water was treated at the R.B. Simms Water Treatment Plant, which draws its water from reservoirs, which are impoundments of the South Pacolet River.

Q: Will the water from the new WTP taste different than the water coming from BRWA?

A: ICWD aims to maintain water quality similar to BRWA's by using advanced ceramic membranes, unique to U.S. WTPs, for superior filtration. ICWD will continue purchasing water from BRWA while using the WTP to supplement supply, ensuring high quality and fair cost for years to come.

The Water Plant

Q: Will the WTP ever be expanded?

A: Yes, if growth continues. The WTP is designed for easy expansion from 4 MGD to 8 MGD, which is the withdrawal limit at the North Pacolet River intake site. Additionally, there's potential future capacity of up to 32 MGD at the WTP site. Though it may be years before this is needed, we're planning ahead.



Q: So, once the new WTP is finished and fully operation, will ICWD still purchase water from BRWA?

A: Correct - ICWD will continue purchasing water from BRWA while using the WTP to meet growing demand. This dual-source approach will be valuable during droughts and provides redundancy, ensuring reliable service if one source is unavailable, aligning with the principle of not "putting all your eggs in one basket."

Q: Where will the water come from once the 8 MGD limit is reached?

A: ICWD has partnered with BRWA and Polk County to form a water authority, providing access to additional raw water sources in North Carolina. This partnership ensures future plant expansion and protects ICWD customers against droughts and emergencies by offering multiple water sources, which wouldn't be possible if relying solely on SWS or BRWA.

Q: What are the routes for the raw water main and the finished water mains?

A: Please see the maps that can be viewed by scanning the QR codes below.



**RAW WATER
MAIN ROUTE**

Scan me



**FINISHED WATER
MAIN ROUTE**

Scan me

ICWD Office and Maintenance Facility

Q: Why did the ICWD decide to build a new office and maintenance facility? Wouldn't the current one and the WTP location be close enough to one another?

A: The current ICWD office, built in the 1970s and expanded 35 years ago, is out of space due to significant growth and a doubled customer base. To address this, ICWD is constructing a larger administration building that will also house a lab for the new WTP, maximizing resources and supporting staff operations.

Q: What will happen to the current ICWD office, maintenance buildings, and surrounding property?

A: The properties have been sold to the City of Inman. Similar to ICWD, the City is in need of larger facilities and the current ICWD location meets their needs.



The Investment

Q: This seems like a large project. How much will all of this cost?

A: The total cost of the project is \$65 million, but ICWD is the recipient of a \$10 million grant. So, the total borrowed amount is \$55 million.

Q: If I'm a customer of ICWD, will this debt cause my water rates to increase?

A: In anticipation of this project, ICWD began incrementally raising the cost of service over the last several years. The last small increase is scheduled for 2025. After that, ICWD is not planning to raise rates for this project.

Q: Since ICWD has raised rates, how does ICWD compare to other water providers in Spartanburg County?

A: Even with the increase in rates, the ICWD's cost of service still compares very well to other water providers in Spartanburg County. This can be viewed on the rate/bill comparison table on the ICWD website.



**WATER RATE
COMPARISON**

Scan me



**WATER BILL
COMPARISON**

Scan me

Q: How are the costs to purchase more water from BRWA or purchase water again from SWS nearly the same as the costs to build a water treatment plant?

A: The WTP project is more cost-effective for ICWD customers compared to the BRWA and SWS options, both for infrastructure and long-term costs. BRWA's water delivery system is nearing capacity and expanding it would require significant investment in new water mains and pump stations, nearly matching the cost of the WTP project. Additionally, producing water at our own WTP is less expensive, as purchasing from BRWA or SWS includes their profit margin. Similarly, the SWS option requires extensive new infrastructure, with costs comparable to building the WTP, but also includes ongoing expenses for purchasing water. By building the WTP, ICWD ensures lower production costs and greater control over water quality and supply for the future.

Q: Why doesn't ICWD just purchase water again from SWS? It seems like this would have kept ICWD from having to raise rates like it has.

A: ICWD chose to build its own water treatment plant rather than purchase more water from SWS or BRWA because all options require new infrastructure. The costs of buying additional water from BRWA or SWS are comparable to building the WTP. In the end, the WTP project is the best financial choice for ICWD customers.



Project Planning and Completion

Q: How long did it take to plan for this project?

A: The WTP project has been in planning for about 22 years. Engineering studies began in 2006, with the North Pacolet River site purchased in 2010 and a withdrawal permit secured in 2011. Design started in 2021, and permits were acquired in early 2024.

Q: When will construction be completed?

A: The WTP is expected to be completed by spring 2026, with the administration and maintenance buildings finishing between fall 2025 and early 2026. Customers will be notified in advance about any changes to billing or customer interactions.



Jeff Walker, PE
General Manager
864.806.9107
JWalker@ICWD.org