



# NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CITY TO BEGIN INSTALLATION OF “SMART METERS” ON SEPTEMBER 24**

ROCKPORT, TX -- On Monday, September 24, technicians working with the City of Rockport’s Public Works Department will begin replacing existing gas and water meters with an advanced, automatic meter reading system as part of the City’s energy efficiency plan. The technicians, employed by the firm U.S. Bronco, will have identification, wear safety vests, and be accompanied by a city employee. The program will begin in the Old Rockport neighborhood and proceed route by route over the next several months until approximately all 15,000 water and gas meters are replaced.

Informational door hangers will be distributed to residences and businesses approximately three days before the work will begin. All of the work will be done outside and does not require a resident to be present. It is estimated that the entire process will take approximately 30-45 minutes per residential meter.

According to Public Works Director Mike Donoho, “Not only will the project improve operational efficiencies, it will also allow customers 24-hour access to their account information. Another benefit to utility customers is the alert system built into the meters, which informs Public Works of atypical usage,” noted Donoho. “This way we’ll be able to respond to possible leaks in the system before they are visually apparent, which will save money for the City’s customers. Customers can also set up alerts for themselves”

(more)

In March 2017, the Rockport City Council adopted an energy efficiency plan, in accordance with Chapter 302 of the Local Government Code, and executed an agreement with Ameresco, Inc., to manage implementation of the project. The project is financed through the savings generated from the improved efficiencies of the meters and will not cause an increase in taxes or utility rates. Other aspects of the overall energy efficiency plan include retrofitting of various lighting fixtures, replacement of air-conditioning units, and new networked thermostats at city facilities.