

Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future

The Bachman Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project

Press Release

For saving a 70-year-old Dallas landmark from abandonment, improving the quality of the city's drinking water, preserving the esthetic quality of a cherished city park and saving the city millions of dollars, the engineering firm of Chiang, Patel & Yerby, Inc. (CP&Y), along with sub-consultants CDM and Jacobs Engineering, has earned the American Council of Engineering Companies' 2007 ACEC Award for their Bachman Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project .

In 2002, the Bachman Water Treatment Plant, built in the 1920's on the shores of Bachman Lake, had outlived its design life. With the area's population growing, an increase in the water supply was needed. Dallas Water Utilities was considering abandoning the aging plant and building a new facility and distribution system. But building a new system would cost approximately \$2.25 per gallon of treatment capacity to construct.

CP&Y's answer to these challenges was a design that provided an innovative alternative to abandoning the aging plant's infrastructure, saved Dallas taxpayers the cost of building a new water treatment plant and preserved the esthetic quality of Bachman Lake Park, at a cost of only \$0.75 per gallon of treatment capacity.

This project presented major complexities with regard to the constrained size of the site, the number of contractors involved and the need to maintain the existing Colonial Revival architecture of the plant and the integrity of the surrounding environment. The plant also had to remain in operation during construction, making effective coordination of the project's five concurrent sub-contracts critical.

Despite these complexities, CP&Y's team designed a new state-of-the-art water treatment plant that maximizes the use of the aging infrastructure, increases the plant's capacity from 115 to 150 Million Gallons per Day and produces water whose quality complies with the EPA's Enhanced Surface Water and Disinfection By-Product Rule.