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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 10/22/2009**

**SUBJECT: City plans to upgrade water system**

**BY: Pakou Ly**

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## **City plans to upgrade water system**

The City of Duluth has embarked on the first of three projects to increase the water supply to the Duluth Heights and surrounding neighborhoods. This increase in capacity will eliminate the shortage of water that has occurred in this area during dry summer periods over the past several years.

Work has begun on the replacement of the Arlington Booster Station along Central Entrance. This pump station takes water from the adjacent reservoir and pumps it up to the Arlington Reservoir located along Arlington Road. The capacity of this pump station is being increased from 1600 gallons per minute to 3400 gallons per minute. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$1.64 million which was well below the budgeted amount of \$2.26 million. Funding for the project is coming from a 10-year loan through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority at a low interest rate of 1.077%. Completion of the project is scheduled for spring 2010.

“The City is in a position to take advantage of today’s favorable interest rates to finance these infrastructure projects. This investment in pumping capacity will ensure that current and future water needs of residents will continue to be met,” says David Montgomery, the City’s Chief Administrative Officer.

The City is also planning two additional projects. An upgrade to the Highland Booster Station, located along Arlington Road, next year will increase pump capacity from 1200 gallons per minute to 2250 gallons per minute. In addition, the two water towers located near Basswood Road will be replaced with a new 1,000,000 gallon elevated tank. The current tanks provide only 500,000 gallons of storage which is insufficient for current and future needs. It is anticipated that the tower will be constructed in 2011.

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