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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prescribed Burn of Dormant Vegetation at NTMWD Wetland Begins This Month and Continues Through February 2023

WYLIE, TX – December 19, 2022 -- The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will be performing prescribed burns to address brush and excessive vegetative thatch at the East Fork Water Reuse Project (Wetland) in Kaufman County. The prescribed burns will be conducted over multiple days beginning in late December 2022 through February 2023. The timing and conclusion of the prescribed burns will depend on local weather conditions.

The prescribed burns may be visible to the area surrounding the Wetland which is located north and south of Highway 175 in an area generally bound by FM 1389 (Kaufman St.), FM 3039 (Old Hwy. 5), Lewis St., and the East Fork of the Trinity River.

Performing prescribed burns is a critical management tool of the Wetland and provides many benefits for the natural filtering process of river water by the plants. Burns reduce brush and excessive cattail thatch that inhibit new plant growth in addition to removing major water-consuming plants like willows. The burns promote a new, vibrant plant community that improves water flow through the Wetland and supports water quality improvement as well as wildlife habitat and diversity.

These annual burns are conducted in a controlled and safe manner according to strict guidelines. NTMWD is coordinating these activities with the Kaufman County Sheriff's Office and local fire departments and police.

The Wetland uses aquatic plants and sunlight to naturally filter water diverted from the Trinity River and East Fork of the Trinity River. As Wetland vegetation goes through its annual life cycle, it creates a layer of thatch that accumulates over time. Prescribed burning is a critical management tool to address accumulated vegetative thatch and invasive woody vegetation. The naturally filtered water is then pumped north to Lavon Lake and eventually treated for distribution to NTMWD Member Cities and Customers.

About NTMWD

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) was created in 1951 as a special district of the state. Today, NTMWD is a regional wholesale provider of water, wastewater, and solid waste disposal services with a service territory covering 2,200 square miles. NTMWD serves more than two million people in up to 80 communities with drinking water, 1.4 million people with wastewater collection and treatment, and 930,000 people with waste management services.