

Olmito Water Supply Corporation has provided water and sanitary sewer service to the community of Olmito, Texas for over 50 years. Through the efforts of a handful of visionaries, over 8,000 people who can be considered “Colonia” residents now enjoy safe tap water and sanitary sewer services. This endeavor has allowed these rural residents, poor and moderate income alike, to experience quality of life in rural Cameron County.

On March 9, 1967 the Office of the Secretary of State certified Olmito WSC as a non-profit corporation under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and issued Charter No. 232462 to that effect to the first official Board of Directors:

James A. Bennett	President
Lupe Esquivel	Vice-President
Betty Hill	Secretary/Treasurer
Fernando Serda	Director
Charley Pieper	Director

The Texas Public Utilities Commission granted Olmito WSC a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (No. 10537) on November 1, 1979 to provide water services. On December 16, 1994 Olmito WSC received its CCN Certificate (No. 20784) to provide sanitary sewer services. This enabled Olmito to service the Old Townsite of Olmito, the area East of Expressway 77/83 via Lomax Road and FM 803 to State Highway 100 to Old Alice Road and back from FM 511 to Merryman Road.

In 1987 Olmito WSC replaced its small water plant with the construction of a new water plant with the capacity to treat one million gallons per day. In 2011 the water treatment plant’s capacity was expanded to treat two million gallons per day. The water treatment facility and Olmito WSC’s Administration Office are located at 101 Clara Bennett Drive in Olmito, Texas.

In 1997, three years after securing its sanitary sewer CCN, the Corporation established sanitary sewer service with the construction of its sanitary sewer treatment plant. The treatment plant is a Constructed Wetlands Wastewater Treatment Plant with the capacity to treat 750,000 gallons of raw sewage per day. This facility is located on a 100-acre tract on Old Alice Road between State Highway 100 and FM 511 (Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. Highway).

Olmito WSC has grown significantly. Initially, Olmito WSC had a few hundred water connections and currently has over 2,175 water connections and 1,600 sanitary sewer connections. In addition to a steady annual increase of customers, Olmito WSC assumed the ownership and operation of the John Frias Waste Water Utility in 2007 which provided sanitary sewer service to approximately 80 customers of the Saint Francis of Assisi Subdivision. Furthermore, Olmito WSC connected an extra 120 customers to the sanitary sewer system in September 2012. Another growth indicator is the total personnel in 1967, which consisted of the five people listed below, compared to the 13 current employees in 2017:

Lawrence MacFall	Manager/Plant Operator
Jim Latimer	Customer Service
Nelly Latimer	Bookkeeper
Juan Cavazos	Laborer
Fernando Serda	Laborer

Of the approximately 2,175 connections, 95% are classified as residential and only 5% as commercial customers. Olmito WSC has and continues to improve the quality of life for rural residents, families who sometimes do not have clean water and sanitary services – some of the most basic services that the rest of us take for granted every day.

All this has been made possible through the dedication of Olmito WSC’s community leader, the support from Cameron County, financial assistance from the State and Federal governments – but most importantly by a strong and effective Board of Directors and Staff.