



The new Al Askari Water Treatment Plant is currently under construction and when finished will provide water to homes in Fallujah's northeast quadrant.



Fallujah worker at new Al Askari water treatment plant



Work continues on the Al Askari water treatment plant

Fallujah rebuilding potable water capabilities

Water is a precious resource in Iraq ... clean, drinking water even more so.

Fallujah residents last spring celebrated the opening of a new water treatment facility, the first such investment in their community in a quarter-century.

Fallujah's main water treatment plant was built in 1981 capable of producing 2,000 cubic meters per hour. But over the years, little was invested in maintenance and today that outdated facility can produce only half what was originally intended.

In April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw completion of a new 400 cubic meter per hour facility in the southwest corner of Fallujah along the Euphrates River to help the community's water needs there. The Al Tahadi water treatment plant has the capacity to produce enough water for about 50,000 residents in that area.

An identical facility, the Al Askari Water Treatment Plant, is being constructed to pump fresh water to Fallujah's northeast section. That project is currently about one-third finished and will include a 6.2 kilometer water main.

"When you finish that second project, we will finally have enough water for our city," said Fallujah's Water Department

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Al Tahadi Water Treatment Plant

Fallujah townspeople gathered in April to celebrate the official opening of the new Al Tahadi water treatment plant. It is now producing 400 cubic meters per hour of fresh, potable water for residents on the south side of the city. A second identical facility that will serve residents in Fallujah's northeast corner is currently under construction.



Fallujah residents see variety of improvements

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engineer. "A lot of residents are anxiously awaiting its completion. I get calls all the time about its status."

Fallujah's vice chairman of the Reconstruction Committee, Engineer Khalid, had high praise for the investment being made in his community regarding key essential services.

He singled out the four schools that are being constructed in Fallujah as a special source of pride. "These are high quality structures with an excellent design. We're asking the Ministry of Education to consider using two of those buildings for a medical, engineering, or girls college in Fallujah." Each of those 3,074-square-meter two-story masonry structures features 24 classrooms, 4 labs, a gym, cafeteria, courtyard, play area, and can handle 1200 students.

He noted that the new \$80 million wastewater collection system and treatment plant under construction is one of the largest such projects outside Baghdad. It will replace the city's current reliance on septic tanks and involves 32 contracts.

In addition, Fallujah's electrical network is being totally rebuilt and upgraded and four new primary healthcare centers constructed. "We consider these as gifts from the American people. Our residents understand that millions are being spent to rebuild our community. We appreciate your efforts."

Fallujah city officials participated in an open house and dedication of the Al Tahadi water treatment plant in April. That facility produces 400 cubic meters per hour and is capable of meeting the water needs of over 50,000 residents. The work included installing intake cribs, filtration and chlorination systems, pumps, and piping taking raw water from the Euphrates River located nearby.