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Laredo, Texas – February 18-24, 2022

This 36" cast iron line was originally installed in 1971. It is a water main transmission line that feeds Laredo from El Pico Water Treatment Plant. In 2020 this municipality broke ground for plant expansion. Smith-Blair provided 5 units of 60" Dismantling Joints in 2012 that are installed between the Rio Grande River and the El Pico Plant. Over time, the increased pressures to meet demand and the aging infrastructure began to experience pitted surface areas on this cast iron pipe (video below). This municipality began stocking repair products to make repairs as needed and would keep 2 units in stock at all times. Well, earlier this year the pipe began to fail at multiple locations. Smith-Blair got involved and rushed some product, on the weekend, as they had 120,000 residents with limited or zero water pressure. S-B's efforts got the majority of the 260,000 population up and running within a few days and allowed time for new piping (160' section) and valve insertions to be installed. The portion of the pipe (140') that contains S-B products is not the pipe that has been replaced. We are currently working on encapsulation bell packs and couplings that this municipality will stock for future repairs. It is apparent they will replace this line in sections that require immediate attention and as needed. They do not qualify for government funding and will be relying on local taxation.









