

Brunswick County Media Release



For immediate release: 10/24/2016
Contact: Amanda Hutcheson, (910) 253-2995
Amanda.hutcheson@brunswickcountync.gov

Progress continues on water main bypass repairs

Bolivia, NC – As work continues to construct a bypass around the break in a water main providing water for Brunswick County, it remains critical that citizens continue to conserve water.

Crews worked all weekend on the bypass, which will allow water to keep flowing to the Northwest Water Treatment Plant while crews repair the water main. It will also reduce flooding at the site of the break, as some of the water currently flowing through the main leaks from the break in the pipe.

At this time, it looks likely that the bypass will be in place Thursday or Friday. However, Brunswick County remains in a Stage 2 Water Emergency for the time being, and it is critical that citizens continue to conserve water until the bypass is in place and crews are confident in its ability to carry water to the treatment plant.

Crews have worked hard and implemented a number of options to keep water flowing to the Northwest Water Treatment Plant, as well as to ensure water reserves are maintained in the event of an emergency during these repairs. As the amount of water flowing to the plant is reduced, even with these efforts, it remains critical that citizens continue to conserve water and decrease usage until the bypass is completed.

Brunswick County has no plans to turn off water, other than irrigation meters of customers who continue to irrigate despite mandatory restrictions. Outdoor water usage, including irrigation, continues to be prohibited for all public water customers.

Additionally, customers should avoid using water during peak times – like in the mornings before work – as much as possible. Residents should take additional steps to conserve water, like taking short showers instead of baths and only running dishwashers or washing machines when they are full (instead of running partial loads). There is no boil water at this time, and the water is safe to drink.

Residents may see golf courses continuing to irrigate. Golf courses use effluent (reclaimed water) or non-potable water from retention ponds for irrigation. No golf courses in Brunswick County use potable water for irrigation. Commercial car washes can still operate at this time as well; car washes use relatively little water because they recycle the water they use, and are the livelihood for their operators and employees. Closing commercial car washes will not cause much of a decrease in water usage and will diminish their ability to earn a living. Similarly, a

person who regularly sells plants is permitted to use water on their commercial stock, and state- and county-licensed landscape contractors may water plants by hand-held hose or drip irrigation under a written warranty. However, when we can no longer provide adequate water to our treatment plant, we will restrict these operations.

Since this water main break affects one of Brunswick County Public Utilities' sources of water, it affects not only Brunswick County Public Utilities customers but also the customers of utility providers that purchase wholesale water from Brunswick County.

Thank you to all of the utility customers who worked to decrease water usage, and contributed to the 3 million gallon per day decrease in consumption seen to date. Thank you also to the Village of Bald Head Island, which switched entirely to an alternate water source to help relieve demand on the County's system. The mandatory water restrictions do not apply to customers of Bald Head Island or to those who solely use wells.

Citizens who would like to receive updates about the water main and other emergency notifications can sign up for CodeRED notifications by phone call, text or email at <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/codered>.

The Water Emergency Ordinance is viewable at https://www.municode.com/library/nc/brunswick_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIC0OR_CH1-13WAWASU_ARTVWAEMOR. For frequently asked questions and more information about the water main break and repairs, visit <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov>.

– End –