

PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF BENICIA
Public Works Department
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Emergency Wastewater System Repair Resumes in the 500 Block of West I Street

Benicia, CA (September 30, 2020) — Construction activities will resume on Thursday, October 1, 2020, and continue for approximately six weeks to repair a clogged wastewater collection pipe in the 500 block of West I Street. Residential traffic in the area will be limited due to movement of heavy machinery.

On August 29, 2020, Public Works Department staff noticed atypical flows in the City's wastewater collection system. Upon investigation, a two-foot by nine-foot blockage of cement was found in the wastewater collection system in the vicinity of West I Street and West Fifth Street. The wastewater collection system is the underground pipe network that transfers water from customer's drains to the wastewater treatment plant. Staff immediately installed a pumping system to move wastewater around the blockage.

On September 15, 2020, City Council declared a contracting emergency, which enabled City staff to work with Ghilotti Construction and their subcontractors to remove the blockage without having to excavate the pipe. After a week of unsuccessful attempts, the City determined excavation will be necessary to remove the 27 square foot blockage.

Starting October 1, construction crews with heavy excavation equipment will be working in the area to remove and replace the clogged wastewater collection pipe. Construction activities will likely take six weeks.

The City of Benicia appreciates the patience of area residents while they working to repair the blockage. Questions on the project may be directed to Kyle Ochendusko, Deputy Public Works Director, at 707.746.4240 or kochendusko@ci.benicia.ca.us.

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