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MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION HELPS RESOLVE SERVICE ISSUE

Emergency Connections Assist Private Mutual Water Companies

Santa Paula, CA (March 19, 2020) – Emergency water service is being provided to several small mutual water companies following an equipment failure at a regional booster plant.

The outage started Wednesday, March 18, after a flow meter malfunctioned at United Water Conservation District’s El Rio Booster Plant, which serves the mutual water companies. United’s system was shut down at 10:15 p.m.

Because Cypress, Dempsey Road and Saviers Road mutual water companies do not have secondary sources of supply, customers were provided water through alternative connections by the City of Oxnard before the shutdown.

The secondary water was provided by running fire hoses between city fire hydrants and the hydrants in the mutuals’ service areas. The temporary connections will remain in place until repairs on United’s system are finalized Friday afternoon.

The Oxnard Fire Department has been made aware of the situation and is providing support to maintain adequate water pressure and ensure residents remain fire safe.

As of Thursday, one multi-unit home in Oxnard remained without water because of a faulty residential meter that will be repaired by Cypress Mutual Water Company. Service there is also expected to be online by Friday afternoon.

“United has never experienced an emergency situation like this,” said Brian Collins, manager of UWCD Operations and Maintenance. “What resulted was an impressive, cooperative response from our community partners – the City of Oxnard, Calleguas Municipal Water District and the State Division of Drinking Water – who worked with us to reestablish service as quickly as possible.”

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About United Water Conservation District

Since 1927, United Water Conservation District (District) has served as a leader among water agencies by managing, protecting, enhancing and securing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain. The District works to protect the environment’s natural attributes and conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River including Piru, Hopper, Sespe and Santa Paula Creeks. Committed to managing the area’s water supplies through groundwater replenishment and the construction and operation of efficient water supply and delivery systems, the District serves as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula and Fillmore, as well as Naval Base Ventura County and several mutual water districts, farms and individual pumpers. The District also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

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