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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Union Sanitary District and Alameda County Water District Collaborate to Repair Sinkhole in Union City

Repairs to a sinkhole in Union City will continue through the weekend, as crews from both the Alameda County Water District and the Union Sanitary District seek to fix damaged pipes and restore normal service to customers of both agencies.

Both ACWD and USD have crews in place around the clock and hope to complete repair work by Tuesday, Oct. 20. Until then, westbound lanes on

Alvarado Boulevard will remain closed between Fair Ranch Road and Fredi Street.

The sinkhole was reported on Wednesday afternoon, and crews from both agencies have been on site since then. As the work progresses and the extent of damage is more clearly understood, it is possible that the timeline may be adjusted.

The cause of the sinkhole is undetermined at this time. The focus of both utilities remains on completing repairs as quickly as possible and on reopening the roadway to traffic. ACWD was able to bypass the line early Thursday and restore water service to all 20 customers that were impacted. Permanent repairs have been completed and water quality sampling analysis is being conducted. Sewer service continues without disruption.

After excavating the site, ACWD crews determined that the water line had more extensive damage than previously believed. The additional damage has required further excavation and more time-consuming repair.

“What initially appeared to be 40 feet of damage now is about 53 feet,” said Marty Koller, ACWD Board President. “That additional damage changed the equation for removal and repair pretty significantly. Fortunately, our crews were

able to restore service to affected customers very quickly, and now a more permanent repair can be made.”

USD is working to set up a bypass that will allow use of a remote camera to assess damage. Excavation is expected to begin Saturday in order to reach USD’s main, which is 33 inches in diameter and 20 feet below street level. USD’s main is located below ACWD’s facilities in the affected area, and repairs to the water main had to be completed before USD could conduct its repair work.

Westbound lanes on Alvarado Boulevard between Fredi Street and Fair Ranch Road remain closed. One eastbound lane of Alvarado Boulevard is closed to traffic today until approximately 10 p.m. and on Saturday beginning at 7 a.m., when it is to remain closed until the repair is complete. This closure is necessary for USD to install a bypass line, as sewage cannot flow through the pipeline while repairs are made. After considering multiple options, this closure pattern was selected as the best method to expedite the repair and maintain the fire station’s ability to respond to emergencies.

“We appreciate the collaboration between all agencies as all of us work to complete repairs and open the roadway to the public,” said Jennifer Toy, USD Board President. “We all have the same priority – to get things back to normal for our customers as quickly and safely as possible.”

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Union Sanitary District operates a 33 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility in Union City and provides collection, treatment and disposal services to a total population of over 344,000 in Fremont, Newark, and Union City, CA. The District maintains over 800 miles of underground pipeline in its service area. For more information about Union Sanitary District, please visit www.unionsanitary.ca.gov.

For 100 years, the Alameda County Water District has supplied water to the residents and businesses of southern Alameda County. ACWD supplies drinking water to the more than 344,000 people living in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City. For more information, please visit www.acwd.org.