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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: UNION SANITARY DISTRICT
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Union Sanitary District Crews Continue Work on Union City Sinkhole

Repairs to a sewer line damaged by last week's sinkhole in Union City will take longer than initially projected, although repair crews hope to conduct the work in a way that minimizes the impact on traffic in the area.

Over the weekend, crews from Union Sanitary District (USD) were able to do a more thorough examination of the damage than had been possible when the sinkhole remained flooded by a broken water main. That examination revealed that damage to the sewer pipe some 20 feet underground was more extensive than previously believed. The pipe now appears to be damaged in two different spots about 20 feet apart. Further, a manhole at the site of the sinkhole has been extensively damaged by the shifting ground.

The cause of last week's sinkhole is not known at this time. USD's focus has been and continues to be completing repairs as safely and quickly as possible.

Soil conditions in the area, as well as a high level of groundwater, have made excavation more difficult and will complicate the repair options available to work crews.

USD crews have been on site since the sinkhole was first discovered, although excavation and diagnostic work had to wait until the water main above the sewer line was repaired.

"Our crews are working as quickly as possible," said Paul Eldredge, USD general manager, "but it's important that we do this repair correctly and only have to do it once."

USD is evaluating several possible methods of repair, and will have to conduct additional diagnostic work before determining which method to use. No timetable for completing the repair is possible at this time.

Motorists, however, should see an improvement to the traffic situation on Alvarado Boulevard and the surrounding area as early as this week. USD crews hope to re-open one westbound lane of Alvarado Boulevard as early as Wednesday, and may be able to reopen an additional eastbound lane next week.

Currently, both westbound lanes of Alvarado Boulevard are closed between Fair Ranch Road and Fredi Street. One westbound lane of the boulevard will remain closed throughout the repair project, as USD crews bypass the damaged pipeline while repairs are made.

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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.