

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tim Gross
Public Works Director/City Engineer

541.574.3369

**CITY OF NEWPORT
WATER MAIN BREAK IN YAQUINA BAY
LIMITED WATER SUPPLY IN SOUTH BEACH**

From the office of the Public Works Director/City Engineer, Tim Gross:

The water line crossing Yaquina Bay that feeds the South Beach area was damaged and broken during the storm surge that occurred during the January 18-19th storm event. The City of Newport's water treatment facility identified a significant water break leaking between 500,000 to 600,000 gallons per day beginning on the morning of January 19th. After many days of intensive searching, Public Works crews were unable to find the location of the leak but were able to isolate the region to the area between Hwy 101 and the Bay. The City of Newport Public Works Department issued a press release on January 23rd requesting that businesses and residents keep an eye out for unusual water flows and report suspicious accumulations or flows of water. On Friday, January 27th, an employee from the Port of Newport reported unusual turbulence below a dolphin structure located in the bay at the end of the breakwater protecting the Embarcadero marina. Upon further investigation it was determined that this was the break in question.

Early on the morning of February 2nd, divers and equipment from Orca Divers and Billeter Marine investigated and determined the extent of the leak. It was necessary to shut down the water main crossing the bay to perform this assessment and to fix the problem. The repair will be conducted Friday, February 3rd however the water main will need to be flushed, chlorinated and tested before it can be returned to service. It is anticipated that the water main will be out of service for approximately 1 week.

The South Beach Water tank is anticipated to provide adequate water supply for the South Beach area for a number of days, however the City does not have the ability to

refill this tank until the water main is restored to service. The City of Newport Fire Department has been notified and they are making provisions for fire protection with limited water supplies.

The City is requesting that residents and business make every effort to conserve water and possibly delay any production or operations that may use large quantities of water until the water main can be brought back into service. Residents are encouraged to have a 72 hour emergency kit at all times including a supply of water in containers. Water is available at the City Shops, located at 845 NE Third Street. Anyone obtaining water from the City Shops must bring their own water containers.

Please contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Tim Gross with questions or concerns at 541-574-3369.

#####