

Subject: SAWS

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 1:54:13 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Donovan Burton

To: gwestbrook@posgcd.org

CC: 'Scott Parrish'

Gary,

You have requested that SAWS comment on a recent Rivard Report news article that referred to Vista Ridge water delivered to SAWS for municipal use being discharged into a creek bed (Mud Creek) that is adjacent to the SAWS Aqua Vista Station water treatment plant. I want to assure you that the water is being put to beneficial municipal use as part of SAWS' efforts to ensure water quality for the community as this new water source is introduced into the distribution system. However, we also have planned to end these discharges into Mud Creek over the next few days.

Below are the reasons SAWS has been temporarily discharging water into Mud Creek:

- Recent events in Flint Michigan serve as a reminder that water utilities need to be extremely vigilant about integrating new sources of water into their distribution systems. SAWS cannot put our customers' health and safety at risk due to a failure to perform adequate due diligence and analysis of actual finished water. Therefore, SAWS is approaching the integration process in a methodical manner. Water is being introduced into defined areas of the distribution system. The effects of this new water source are then analyzed to ensure that there are no negative impacts. SAWS has determined to proceed in this incremental manner and phase delivered water into the distribution system to ensure that there are no leaching effects on plumbing, or any other currently unanticipated adverse water quality effects that would cause health and safety concerns. That being said, we have done extensive analysis and are beginning the next phase of our integration efforts over the next one-two weeks. We will begin sending water into other areas of our system over the next several days, which will halt any further discharge into Mud Creek. The water will be put into new infrastructure, and therefore some flushing will be required as per health and safety requirements. As soon as the pipeline infrastructure is flushed and does not show any water quality concerns, SAWS will begin putting water into the distribution system. We expect this process to take about one-two weeks maximum beginning tomorrow, and therefore discharge will no longer be occurring after this process is completed.
- The SAWS Agua Vista Station water treatment plant is still in the operational start-up period. The structural integrity of the system is still undergoing tests. Discharges from this process and of the distribution system that will convey the newly delivered water are authorized by TCEQ General Permit No. TXG670000, and thus do not constitute waste.

SAWS intends to achieve the goal of full integration of delivered water into the distribution system within the next one-two weeks, consistent with determining that there are no adverse water quality effects to SAWS' customers and ensuring the integrity of SAWS infrastructure. Discharge to Mud Creek, which was the subject of the article, will cease over the next few days.

We will keep you informed of events as we move forward. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

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