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FLORENCE
SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release – May 8, 2025

Notification of Sanitary Sewer Overflow near Jefferies Creek Downstream of Freedom Boulevard

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FLORENCE, SC – In July 2008, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) required wastewater collection system operators, including the City of Florence, to enact public notification programs related to sanitary sewer overflows. In response to this regulatory requirement, the City developed a policy for releasing information on overflows of 5,000 gallons or more.

On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, the City of Florence received notice of a wastewater overflow near Jefferies Creek downstream of Freedom Boulevard. Staff responded immediately upon being notified and identified the location and source of the overflow which was caused by a blockage near the Florence Wastewater Management Facility that backed water into the collection system.

It is estimated that more than 5,000 gallons of sewage were discharged at this location and flowed into Jefferies Creek. City crews responded immediately, have since reduced the overflow, and are continuing manual efforts to fully remove the blockage and stop the discharge. Once the overflow is fully contained, crews will begin mitigation efforts, including water quality testing, vacuum truck cleanup, and disinfection of the affected area in accordance with DES guidelines.

Residents are advised to avoid contact with these affected areas, particularly downstream of Freedom Boulevard on Jeffries Creek. Avoid swimming, fishing, or other recreational water activities in this area until further notice. Pets should also be kept away from the area.

The information provided is pursuant to the City of Florence's policy of public notification for sanitary sewer overflows. For further information, please contact Josh Whittington, Utilities Director at (843) 665-3236 or SCDES at (843) 661-4825.

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