



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 9, 2017**

**MALFUNCTIONS AT REPUBLIC LIFT STATION CAUSE WASTEWATER OVERFLOW INTO SHUYLER CREEK**

**REPUBLIC, Missouri** – In the overnight hours on Sunday, May 7, the city of Republic along with several partnering agencies worked to mitigate a critical pump malfunction at the Shuyler Creek lift station, which collects and transports wastewater from 70 percent of the city’s households.

The mechanical failure caused as much as 500 gallons of sewage per minute to release into Shuyler Creek for a number of hours. The city issued an emergency water conservation order Sunday, asking residents to reduce wastewater coming into the station by minimizing bathing and washing activities. The order was lifted by Monday afternoon, as the city established a temporary bypass pump until the permanent pumps can be restored. The situation is currently stable.

The lift station normally operates on four pumps. One pump had not been in service and the remaining three pumps each suffered some form of mechanical failure over the last seven days, likely due to heavy rains the previous weekend and week. At approximately 4 p.m. on Sunday, an emergency alarm alerted staff to the lift station, who discovered the malfunction and subsequent overflow into the nearby Shuyler Creek. At that time, manual pumping operations began with tanker trucks transporting the wastewater from the lift station to the wastewater treatment plant located at the northwest edge of Republic.

Through a cooperative effort with several entities, 20 trucks and pieces of response equipment are onsite. Participating agencies include Greene County, Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, Greene County Sheriff’s Office, City of Springfield, City of Nixa, City of Ozark and private contractors that are assisting in transporting the wastewater.

City officials stress that water from the tap is still safe to drink and use for bathing and washing dishes. They have contacted the Department of Natural Resources to assess the environmental impact on the discharge into Shuyler Creek.

In October 2016, Republic’s City Council authorized over \$1.2 million in improvements for this facility with the project currently under construction. This improvement includes a planned bypass pumping design, which is being implemented one month early to assist in this response.

For more information, contact Republic City Administrator David Cameron at (417) 838-5342.

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