



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BJWSA Asks Customers to Limit Water Use

Water and wastewater strained in aftermath of Helene

Okatie, SC – (September 27, 2024) – Due to widespread power outage issues at system facilities, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) is asking its customers in Beaufort and Jasper Counties to suspend all non-essential water use through the weekend.

“Our damage assessment is still underway, but this is the worst storm damage we’ve experienced since Hurricane Mathew in 2016,” said Verna Arnette, BJWSA’s general manager. “We’re in contact with our power-supply partners and using generators where possible.”

Area residents are asked to:

- Suspend all non-essential water use, including irrigation;
- Keep stormwater out of sanitary sewers;
- Stay out of floodwaters that may contain dangerous organisms and wildlife; and
- Do not pile storm debris near water meter shutoff valves or fire hydrants.

By reducing demand, the Authority can decrease strain on both its water and sewer treatment systems and assure it can meet essential needs as crews work around the clock to recover.

Responses to requests for service from teams in the field may take longer than usual until critical systems are fully operational. The Authority’s ability to treat the water has not been affected and it is safe to use, but decreasing demand will help prevent further complications.

About Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority

BJWSA is the Southern Lowcountry’s largest water and wastewater utility, serving approximately 200,000 Carolinians through 69,000 connections. The public, non-profit organization is led by a board of directors recommended by the Beaufort and Jasper County Legislative Delegations and appointed by the Governor of South Carolina. The mission of the utility is to deliver quality water and wastewater services to current and future residents of the utility’s 750 square mile service area.

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