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CITY OF FRANKLIN RESPONSE TO HRWA LAWSUIT

In August 2014, the Harpeth River Watershed Association (HRWA) filed a lawsuit against the City of Franklin that alleges we are in violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

THE CITY OF FRANKLIN ABSOLUTELY REJECTS PREMISES OF THE HRWA LAWSUIT.

In recent years, the City of Franklin wastewater utility has received NO notices of violation from state or federal regulators and there are NO situations of ongoing noncompliance.

Our Water Management Department is very proud to serve our community's infrastructure needs with high-performing water and wastewater systems that are heavily regulated by state and federal agencies (TDEC and EPA).

As a City, we are also ever-mindful of our environmental stewardship responsibilities as demonstrated by our strong record of compliance, including water and river quality monitoring, and our holistic 30-Year Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP).

In keeping with the IWRP, planned upgrades to our Water Reclamation Facility will allow us to continue to outperform current water quality standards – as well as the anticipated more stringent water quality standards of the future – as we serve our growing community.

Sections of the Harpeth River are indeed on the state's list of water quality limited streams, which makes them a priority for water quality improvement efforts. In fact, the river is impaired before it reaches the City of Franklin.

Any wastewater collection system may occasionally experience a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) due to factors that include grease, roots, or other physical blockages (flushable wipes, toys, kitty litter, bottles, cans, etc.), excessive rainfall and illicit discharges. We are proud to perform 75-90% better than comparable and other systems in our region with a five-year average of 1.0 sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) per 100 miles per year, far below EPA's definition of a well-performing system with 5.0 SSOs per 100 miles per year. We are committed to continuing this exemplary record and to responding to any overflow situation immediately and addressing its cause as quickly as possible; our average response time is about 25 minutes.

We regret that ratepayers/taxpayers of the City of Franklin face shouldering the legal costs for this unnecessary lawsuit. The facts do matter, and we are committed to making sure our community has and understands them.