



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wastewater Spill Stopped

Bypass is up and running with the installation taking place in less than one week.

The Division of Public Works made a remarkable breakthrough to stop the flow of wastewater in Cypress Creek. The bypass is up and running, carrying sewage around the broken sewer pipe and will remain in operation, with pumps running 24 hours a day. The city is moving to the next phase of the project which is the permanent repair of the collapsed line.

Next steps include:

*Permanent repair of the pipe.

*Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation will continue to test the water twice per week.

*The City Of Memphis will bring in an environmental expert to advise our Public Works Director on cleaning up efforts.

*We will continue to cooperate with our federal, state and local partners, the Coast Guard, TDEC, TWRA, Shelby County Health Department, Office of Preparedness, Memphis Police and Memphis Fire.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for people NOT to have contact with the water until further notice. Shelby County Health officials are warning people to avoid recreational activities and touching or fishing in Cypress Creek or McKellar Lake. Tests show levels of E. coli up to 300 times the recreational criteria for streams and up to 580 times the level for lakes. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation issued a temporary water contact advisory for the lake and creek, and sampling and tests will continue

“Now that the spill is stopped, our next focus will be to repair the damage pipe and work with the state to evaluate and collaborate on any long term remediation needs,” said Mayor Jim Strickland.

The cost for this operation and the repairs is 100% sewer funded. No general funds will be used. We expect the permanent fix to be completed in 3-4 months.

Working to improve the quality of life of all Memphians, every day.