




## Memorandum

### Memorandum No: 23-118

**Date:** September 27, 2023

**To:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

**From:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager   
Greg Chavarria (Sep 28, 2023 09:37 EDT)

**Re:** Emergency Purchase – Replacement of Water Main on N New River Dr, SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and SE 4<sup>th</sup> St

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On September 7, 2023, City crews performed emergency repairs to an 8-inch diameter ductile iron water main located near 347 N New River Dr following a break. As a result of the break, water pressure dropped below 20 pounds per square inch (psi), resulting in a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (PBWN) being issued. While the City has been testing for bacteriological presence to ensure the water is safe to consume, samples continue to fail. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulations require passing results for two (2) consecutive days before the PBWN can be lifted. On September 24, 2023, City staff received approval from FDEP and executed a temporary localized chlorination injection to clear bacteria from this segment of pipe, however the operation was not successful. On September 26, 2023, after further consultation with FDEP, the City performed a second, stronger, chlorination injection and is waiting for results to determine when the precautionary boil water notice may be lifted.

The water main is ductile iron and is estimated to be more than 30 years old. Due to its proximity to the New River, pipe infrastructure at this location is susceptible to high ground water, river's tidal cycles, saltwater intrusion, and king tides, which attack metals and result in severe corrosion and deterioration. This was evident from an excavation that showed the pipe severely rusted and pitted.

On January 27, 2022, there was a previous water main break on SE 4<sup>th</sup> St and an emergency repair, which resulted in a precautionary boil water notification. It took a total of 17 days, until February 13, 2022, for the City to achieve clean testing results and lift the PBWN.

There is an existing Community Investment Plan (CIP) project, P12531, which is currently funded to replace the failing force main. The project scope, which is in design, includes replacing and upsizing the water mains on N New River Dr from Andrews Ave to SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave from N New River Dr to Las Olas Blvd, SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave from N New River Dr to Las Olas Blvd, and SE 4<sup>th</sup> St from SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave (See yellow highlighted

sections on map). It is recommended that all pipes, ranging from 4, 6, and 8 inches, are upsized to 10 inches. Staff are also recommending the City utilize alternative non-corrosive pipe materials for this area, such as PVC or HDPE, to reduce the impacts of groundwater and saltwater. Staff estimates the total project cost will be between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000.

Due to the previous history of issues with pipes in this area, the inability to clear bacteriological presence within the water, the risk of future pipe breaks, and continued impacts to our residents, at staff's request, the City Manager has declared a procurement emergency, pursuant to Section 2-190(b)(2), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Emergency purchases are permitted in the event of equipment failure, catastrophic damage to City property, or other similar unexpected events.

Following this declaration, staff will coordinate with the Procurement Division and current City of Fort Lauderdale contractor(s) to expedite the needed replacement of existing water main pipes using the pipe-bursting method. Initial planning indicated construction work could commence as early as within the next two (2) weeks and take approximately 3-4 weeks to be completed. The scope of work will include establishing temporary connections for all buildings and services impacted by the construction to ensure continued water supply during construction. A full report of all purchases associated with his emergency request shall be made to the City Commission at the earliest available Commission Meeting.

For additional information contact Public Works Director Alan Dodd at [adodd@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:adodd@fortlauderdale.gov).

Attachment: Limits of Work Area Map

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager  
D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
CMO Managers

Limits of Work Area

