



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BJWSA Investing \$21 Million in the Bluffton Area to Improve Wastewater Flow

Okatie, SC – (January 29, 2025) – Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) has begun a \$21 million investment project to address the increasing demand for sewer capacity in the rapidly growing Bluffton area. The initiative focuses on expanding the capacity of two pump stations, located near the intersections of Buck Island Road and Baylor Drive and Malphrus Road and Pine Forest Drive. These expansions, which will increase flow rates at each station by nearly 80 percent, serve Rose Hill, downtown Bluffton and neighborhoods stretching east to the Hilton Head bridges.

As part of the project, BJWSA will also construct a new 850,000-gallon below-ground storage tank at the Malphrus Road and Pine Forest Drive location to enhance capacity and improve flows, especially during wet weather events. While these system improvements are for the sanitary sewage collection system, not stormwater, rainwater does infiltrate the sanitary system. Every ounce of water that contacts sanitary sewage must be treated as sewage. BJWSA does not construct flood control infrastructure or manage stormwater.

BJWSA selected the contractor Wharton-Smith, Inc. to construct this project. There will be no service interruptions associated with the projects. Traffic near both sites may be affected through March 2025. We ask that drivers in the area use extra caution as workers may be present.

This major investment reflects BJWSA's commitment to keeping pace with Bluffton's growth and ensuring reliable service for residents and businesses. Nearly half of the project is being funded by a \$10 million grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority's (RIA) South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP).

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.