



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BJWSA asks customers to avoid irrigation between 3 to 9 a.m., stagger usage

Okatie, S.C. (April 16, 2024) – Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) is reminding customers to follow the utility's Irrigation Management Program to alleviate usage during peak hours and ensure public safety. This move comes as spring landscaping increases demand on the water system during peak morning hours.

Morning hours are often the preferred time for customers to set and activate their irrigation systems. However, too many customers pulling water from the system at the same time can be problematic and result in pressure losses, which can have severe consequences such as boil water advisories, water discoloration, service outages and, in some cases, poor performance of fire hydrants.

“The authority is working hard to increase treatment capacity and storage in order to meet ever-increasing demand,” said BJWSA General Manager Verna Arnette. “If enough residents will simply adjust their lawn watering schedule, it will help mitigate early-morning demand in time for us to complete the expansion of our water treatment plant expected to come online next summer.”

BJWSA is asking customers to:

- Adjust irrigation timers to water only three days per week, on a rotating schedule
 - Odd-numbered addresses are asked to irrigate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
 - Even-numbered addresses are asked to irrigate on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
- Avoid irrigation on Mondays or any day between the hours of 3 a.m. and 9 a.m. when demand is traditionally the highest

The irrigation guidelines were developed in cooperation with Clemson Extension Service to ensure that lawns are being watered at appropriate times for health and growth. Further, allowing landscaping to dry during no-water days will encourage plants to grow deeper roots and reduce the occurrence of fungal diseases.

The authority has several projects underway that will help address demand, including doubling treatment capacity of the Purrysburg Water Treatment Plant to be able to produce 30 million gallons per day and constructing a 1.5-million-gallon water storage tank in Bluffton. These projects won't be complete until 2025.