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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: UNION SANITARY DISTRICT
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**Union Sanitary District Continues Repairs to Damaged Sewer Line,
Reopens Additional Lane of Alvarado Boulevard**

Crews repairing damage caused by an Oct. 14 sinkhole in Union City this week were able to complete another element of the project and reopen an additional lane of traffic.

The sinkhole caused extensive damage to a sewer pipe that runs 20 feet below Alvarado Boulevard in Union City. A manhole in the area also was damaged when the sinkhole occurred. The repair project has required closing some traffic lanes on Alvarado Boulevard between Fair Ranch Road and New Haven Street.

On Tuesday, Union Sanitary District crews completed installing an underground bypass pipe needed to ensure sewer service is not interrupted during the repair project. This allowed them to remove temporary, street-level bypass lines that had occupied one traffic lane of Alvarado Boulevard.

Both eastbound lanes and one westbound lane now are open. One westbound lane of the boulevard will remain closed until the project is completed.

A repair to the sewer pipe will begin once USD is able to assess the extent of the damage and select the best repair method. This assessment has been hampered by difficult soil conditions and high groundwater levels in the affected area.

Last week, USD crews drilled three 30-foot-deep wells and began pumping groundwater out of the affected area. Once the project area is stabilized, USD will assess the damage, select the best method of repairing the damaged pipe, and complete the repairs. A completion date cannot be projected until the exact nature of the damage is known.

The cause of the sinkhole is still unknown at this time. Determining an exact cause may be difficult, as multiple factors could have contributed to the sinkhole. The affected area includes infrastructure for several utilities, as well as extensive groundwater and sandy soils. Ensuring the stability of the area and completing a permanent, effective repair has been and will remain the focus for USD crews.

“This is going to be a project that will require patience on the part of everyone involved,” said USD General Manager Paul Eldredge. “There is a great deal of work to be done, and we are determined to do it as safely and quickly as possible.”

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Union Sanitary District operates a 33 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility in Union City and provides collection, treatment and disposal services to a total population of over 344,000 in Fremont, Newark and Union City, CA. The District maintains over 800 miles of underground pipeline in its service area. For more information about Union Sanitary District, please visit www.unionsanitary.ca.gov.