Requested Incident Report to EPA Concerning 8418 Quintana Road in San Antonio

After dark on Sunday evening, December 4, 2016, a large hole in the middle of Quintana Road in the far southern section of Bexar County was reported by the San Antonio Fire Department to SAWS. SAWS staff worked with the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Fire Department to secure the area which included a large sewer pipeline and a large recycled water pipeline. The roadway was collapsed. Two vehicles had fallen into the affected area sometime between 7:30 and 8:00 Sunday evening. Unconfirmed reports circulated that one vehicle occupant had escaped the hole while one vehicle remained completely submerged.

All sewage observed in the hole remained in the roadway hole and immediately flowed directly into the remaining downstream sewage pipeline. No sewage reached the ground surface, or any creeks or tributaries. The sewage did not pose an environmental or water supply threat to surrounding homes or businesses.

The vehicles remained until Monday morning, when they were extracted and a fatality was identified in the vehicle that was submerged.

Immediately after the vehicles were extracted, SAWS crews, with the assistance of contractors, began assembling pumps and temporary pipelines to dewater the pit and begin repair activities. The pump down of the damaged pipelines and roadway hole is expected to begin on Monday December 12th. A temporary repair of the large diameter pipeline will be immediately constructed once the hole is dry.

Construction on replacement of these pipelines began in 2013. The first phase of this project, south of the roadway collapse, was completed in January 2016 and the second phase of the project, north of the roadway collapse is underway, but work has not started at the specific location of the roadway collapse. The collapse occurred at the intersection of the completed Phase 1 and the pending Phase 2 work.

SAWS crews walked all of the remaining sections of large diameter sewer main in the areas surrounding Quintana Road. As part of this review, a collapsed section was identified on private property approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the current Quintana Road site. Again no spill of sewage has occurred. The second site is located in pasture land away from roads, homes and businesses. SAWS has fenced off and secured the area and started work to remediate the problem.