



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021

Number of Water Main Breaks Down for Fourth Year in a Row in City of San Diego

REPLACEMENT OF OLD WATER PIPELINES AND INCREASED MAINTENANCE CREDITED FOR IMPROVEMENT

SAN DIEGO – For the fourth year in a row, the number of water main breaks has decreased in the City of San Diego. There were 33 water main breaks reported in 2020, the lowest total in more than 15 years and far fewer than the peak of 131 breaks in 2010.

The City credits the continued downward trend to increased maintenance efforts and a multi-year program to replace old pipelines.

“The City’s Public Utilities Department has worked very hard to improve the reliability of our water system infrastructure,” said Shauna Lorance, Director of Public Utilities. **“Our citizens benefit greatly from fewer main breaks because it means less water loss and lower emergency repair costs.”**

The City’s continuing program to replace old cast iron water mains has played a major part in the decrease in breaks. Some cast iron pipes had been in service for more than 100 years. Since 2013, the City has replaced approximately 180 miles of water pipelines across the city. The remaining 55 miles of cast iron water mains are scheduled to be replaced by 2025. The City now uses water mains made of durable polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

“Improving and maintaining our water infrastructure is an important part of our commitment to serving our customers,” said Lorance. **“We will continue to provide reliable water services our customers deserve.”**

Public Utilities crews routinely oversee preventative maintenance work that helps determine potential leaks and breaks before they can happen. Private contractors have completed the bulk of the [pipeline replacement projects](#) under the direction of the City’s Engineering and Capital Projects Department.

###