

NORTHWEST LAKEWOOD SANITATION DISTRICT

141 Union Boulevard, Suite 150
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1898
Tel: 303-987-0835 800-741-3254
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To: All NWLSD Customers
From: Peter A. Italiano, Manager

**Re: Sump Pump Inspection Program
Response to July 2013 Flooding and Sewer Back-ups**

The following letters were sent out earlier this year to certain customers within the District that may have been affected by the flooding of last summer. The District continues to make progress with the field inspections and will provide more updates as they become available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.
Thanks

NORTHWEST LAKEWOOD SANITATION DISTRICT

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February 19, 2014

Name
Address
City, State, Zip code

**Re: Sump Pump Inspection Program
Response to July 2013 Flooding and Sewer Back-ups**

Dear Property Owner:

This letter is being sent to you and approximately 60 other homes within that portion of the Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District (District) Quail Street Drainage Basin that is shaded in green on the enclosed map. The map depicts the entire Quail Street Drainage Basin (Basin), which is divided into five sub-basins. In the very near future, the remaining 385 homes in the Basin will be contacted.

Sanitary sewage, generated in each of the homes within the Basin, flows through the District's sanitary sewage collection system (Collection System) and combines in a common pipe located in Quail Street between Parfet Court and W. 32nd Avenue. We ask for your assistance and cooperation in addressing a matter that is of utmost concern throughout the Basin.

The Basin, for various reasons, has a very high groundwater table. It is believed that when many of the homes in the Basin were constructed, or at a time subsequent thereto, sump pumps were installed to remove groundwater collecting around the foundation and beneath the home's basement. A large number of these sump pumps may have been connected to the District's Collection System.

Sump pumps, however, should not be connected to the Collection System. The pumping of groundwater into the Collection System increases the volume of flow the District delivers to the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District ("Metro") for treatment. The increase in the volume of flow results in the District paying higher treatment fees to Metro. In addition, sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment plants are not designed to handle high volumes of groundwater or stormwater (Groundwater).

Sump pumps can force a high volume of Groundwater into the Collection System in a very short period of time. The volume of flow generated by sump pumps can increase rapidly during periods of heavy precipitation. The Collection System is not designed to

handle peak flows of this nature and can become overloaded. This can result in sewer backups into private homes. Just such an unfortunate incident occurred in July of 2013, when approximately 12 homes, in the vicinity of Quail Street and Parfet Court, were damaged as the result of flooding and sewer backups caused by extremely heavy rain.

Metro and District rules and regulations expressly prohibit the connection of sump pumps to the Collection System. The District must enforce these rules and regulations for a number of reasons, including the prevention of backups in the Collection System. Accordingly, the District's Board is taking steps to prevent or reduce the introduction of Groundwater into the Collection System, especially Groundwater that comes in through sump pumps.

A voluntary inspection program has now been established. The District's Board of Directors would like each homeowner in the Basin to participate. You may invite a District representative into your home to determine if there is a sump pump, and whether or not it is connected to the Collection System. In some homes, this determination may be made through a visual inspection of plumbing connections. In others, a safe and simple dye test may be necessary. There will be no charge for the inspection.

If it is determined that you have a sump pump connected to the Collection System, you will be provided with information on how to disconnect the sump pump so that Groundwater is discharged in an appropriate fashion and not into the Collection System. No penalties or other enforcement actions will be taken against any homeowner who voluntarily participates in the inspection program and, where necessary, takes verifiable steps to disconnect their sump pump from the Collection System.

At some homes, yards are sloped or landscaped in ways that cause Groundwater to accumulate around the foundation. This water may soak into the ground and find its way to sump pumps, and in the case of heavy storms, may enter window wells and flow into basements. As observed during the July 2013 flooding event, this Groundwater can cause immediate damage to the home it enters, and in some cases flows to floor drains and out to the Collection System, further overloading it. As part of its voluntary inspection program, the District will provide information on how to properly route storm water away from foundations.

The District's Board of Directors would like to stress that sump pumps are a matter of significant concern to all homeowners in the Basin. The District is taking this action because of the high costs associated with the treatment of Groundwater, and the unfortunate and unnecessary costs associated with cleaning and sanitizing homes that have experienced sanitary sewer backups. All of these costs are borne by District customers through the rates and taxes they pay to the District. In addition, it is the private homeowners who must bear the cost of restoring any damage caused to their homes as a result of a sewer backup caused by any overloading of the Collection System.

The District's Board of Directors would like your assistance to eliminate all sump pump connections to the Collection System. Please contact the District's Manager, Peter Italiano, at 303-987-0835 within 30 days from the date of this letter to schedule an inspection. All of us at the Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District look forward to hearing from you so that this drainage basin issue can be addressed in a prompt, efficient, and economical manner.

Sincerely yours,
Anthony M. Dursey, President
Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District

TJF/cds

May 28, 2014

Type Name

Type Company & Address

**Re: Second Notice
Sump Pump Inspection Program
Response to July 2013 Flooding and Sewer Back-ups**

Dear Property Owner:

This letter is being sent to those persons who did not respond to the Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District (District) February 19, 2014 letter ("Letter") regarding the District's voluntary sump pump inspection program. Response to the Letter was good, but not good enough to achieve the District's desired result, which is the disconnection of all sump pumps from the District's public sanitary sewer collection system ("Collection System").

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District ("Metro"), which treats the wastewater collected by the District, and the District's rules and regulations expressly prohibit the connection of sump pumps to the Collection System. The District must enforce these rules and regulations for a number of reasons, including the prevention of backups in the Collection System which, when they occur, constitute a threat to the public health and environment.

Following backups in the Collection System that occurred during the heavy precipitation events in July of 2013, the District's Board of Directors ("Board") initiated an exhaustive engineering study of the Collection System and, in particular, the Quail Street drainage basin where your home is located. The study was conducted by Martin/Martin, Inc., the District's consulting engineer, for the purpose of identifying the factors that contributed to the backups and to devise a cost effective plan to ameliorate such conditions.

The study identified inflow and infiltration of storm water and groundwater from private sources ("Private I & I") entering the Collection System during wet weather conditions as a major factor contributing to sewer backups in the Collection System. A significant component of the Private I & I was found to come from interior sources, such as basement floor drains, sump pumps and foundation drains. The engineers have recommended disconnection of such sources from the Collection System.

The Board had hoped and still hopes to address these issues through the voluntary inspection program referenced in the Letter. Accordingly, the Board invites you a second time to participate in the inspection program. If you participate, there will be no charge for

the inspection and no penalty will be imposed if a sump pump or other drainage facility is identified that needs to be disconnected from the Collection System.

If the desired result cannot be accomplished through this voluntary inspection program, the Board will have no choice but to adopt a Private I & I Removal Program requiring inspection and disconnection of all private sources of storm water and/or groundwater from the Collection System. To enforce compliance, the District's enforcement officer will be authorized, upon reasonable notice and the presence of the occupant, to enter upon and inspect those areas of the home where sump pump, floor drains, and exterior storm water drainage facilities are likely to be located. It is anticipated that a failure to comply with this mandatory program will result in court proceedings and/or the imposition of fines and penalties. Those persons who are discovered to have sump pumps as a result of the Private I & I Removal Program may be subject to the imposition of fines and penalties.

The Board would much prefer to address this matter through its voluntary inspection program. The existence of floor drains, sump pumps and foundation drains in the drainage basin remains a significant concern. The Board is seriously considering the adoption of a Private I & I Removal Program because of the high costs associated with the treatment of ground water and the threat to the environment and public health anytime there is a discharge of wastewater from the Collection System caused by interior sources such as floor drains, sump pumps and foundation drains.

For the foregoing reason, the District again requests your assistance in helping eliminate all sump pump connections to the Collection System. Please contact the District's Manager, Peter Italiano, at 303-987-0835 within 30 days from the date of this letter to schedule an inspection.

Sincerely yours,
Anthony M. Dursey, President
Northwest Lakewood Sanitation District

TJF/cds