

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Board of County Commissioners*

02.15.19



## **Gap Creek Spill Larger Than Previously Estimated**

**Fort Walton Beach**– We now believe the leak of a four inch cast iron pipe under Gap Creek could be as large as 500,000 gallons and could have started as early as January sixth.

The leak has been stopped and no additional sewage is leaking into Gap Creek.

We initially received a call on January sixth concerning an aberration near a lift station near Gap Creek. County crews searched for the leak, but were unsuccessful in finding anything out of the ordinary. Because the caller did not leave any personal information, county employees were unable to contact them for more information.

Subsequently, Okaloosa County Water and Sewer's Emergency Line received a call on February 11<sup>th</sup> concerning a potential sewer leak. Unfortunately, this call was not immediately acted upon. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Water and Sewer Crews determined the source of the leak and isolated the discharge to Gap Creek.

During this time, Okaloosa County's pumping records, which track pipe pressure in sewage lines, did not note any changes.

Okaloosa County officials are working to reform internal controls to minimize the possibility this reoccurs.

**It is important to note drinking water is not affected in any way by this leak.**

Okaloosa County is working with DEP and the Okaloosa County Department of Health to mitigate the impact of this leak.

Deputy County Administrator Greg Kisela is available for interviews regarding the incident. Please call Public Information Officer Christopher Saul to set up interviews.

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