



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lawsuit Filed by Mobile County Water, Sewer and Fire Protection Authority Threatens South Mobile County Economic Growth

Mobile, AL: Effective immediately, Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) will no longer provide sewer services to new customers in the Mobile County Water, Sewer and Fire Protection Authority (“County Water”) jurisdiction. MAWSS has determined it cannot responsibly continue to provide sewer to the disputed service area with County Water and be subjected to potential future lawsuits claiming this service is illegal.

It is an unsustainable business model for MAWSS to incur the cost of providing sewer service alone. Meanwhile, County Water neglects its responsibility to provide sewer throughout its areas in South Mobile County.

County Water entered into a written contract in 1989 in which they expressly agreed that MAWSS could “retain and expand” all of its existing water lines at that time within the territory claimed by County Water. However, over the last 33 years, County Water has unsuccessfully tried to break that contract.

In the most recent federal lawsuit County Water has filed, it again tried to violate the contract by taking out a federally guaranteed loan and claiming that federal law stops MAWSS from providing water in the claimed area until 2041.

MAWSS is vigorously defending the current lawsuit. We recognize that growth in this area is dependent upon both utilities working together, but MAWSS has been unsuccessful in its attempts to come to a resolution. We are not interested in turf battles, but in what is best for the community. MAWSS has the additional water and sewer capacity to provide reliable service to the Mobile County area most efficiently, which includes expansion through economic development projects.

Media Contact:
Monica Allen
Public Relations Manager
(251) 694-3100