

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Odor Complaint at Wastewater Treatment Facility No. 2**

A small number of odor complaints were received today from residents of the Sterling Pond area in The Woodlands. Sterling Pond is located in the vicinity of SJRA Wastewater Treatment Facility No. 2 (WWTF No. 2) just off of Research Forest Drive. There are also several wastewater collection lines that run underground throughout this area.

SJRA staff and representatives of the Woodlands Joint Powers Agency and Montgomery County Health Department met onsite today and inspected both the treatment plant and the collection system and detected no significant or unusual odors.

Based on the inspection of the plant and collection system and the time of day that the odor complaints were reported, SJRA staff have concluded that the reported odor was not caused by any malfunction or operational issues within the system.

It is not unusual for wastewater treatment plants to receive odor complaints on very cold days in certain weather conditions. Due to the sporadic nature of these events, it is not always possible to identify the source, but SJRA staff will continue investigating and remain onsite to address any odors that may be detected.

Although it exceeds the state's requirements for wastewater facilities, SJRA has for years utilized bio-filters and odor masking agents at its wastewater plants in The Woodlands. A new odor masking system was recently installed at WWTF No. 2, and the vendor will be onsite Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, to make adjustments to the system to disperse additional volumes of odor masking agents.