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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WJPA and SJRA Detect *E. Coli* Bacteria at Residence in The Woodlands

Affected customers in MUD 47 notified, urged to temporarily boil drinking water

THE WOODLANDS, Texas, Feb. 22, 2018 -- As required for all public water systems, The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency (WJPA) and San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) routinely collect and test hundreds of water quality samples throughout The Woodlands drinking water system.

WJPA recently received test results showing that one sample location tested positive for *E. coli* bacteria in Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 47 (MUD 47). The sample was taken from a residential hose bibb connection on South Copperknoll Circle. Subsequent water samples upstream and downstream of this location tested negative for bacteria. We believe the positive bacteria sample to be isolated to this one address. The homeowner was immediately contacted and is working with WJPA staff to determine what may have caused the bacteria positive sample.

Pertinent information:

- Approximately 120 locations are sampled each month.
- During this round of sampling, only the South Copperknoll Circle location tested positive.
- The chlorine disinfectant level at this sample location was well above the minimum required.
- Additional residences upstream and downstream of this location were tested and all came back with clean results.

What will happen?

- State water quality rules set forth detailed procedures for notifying residents any time a water system receives a positive test for bacteria.
- WJPA will follow the required procedures and notify customers in the affected area to boil drinking water until further notice. (A copy of the Boil Water Notice is attached to this release.)
- WJPA staff has initiated an investigation with the homeowner to try to determine the cause of the failed sample.

What could cause a positive sample result like this?

- An investigation is needed to identify a cause but the following are examples of issues that could lead to a positive bacteria test:
 - A failed irrigation system backflow preventer.
 - A failed vacuum breaker on a hose bibb.
 - A recent plumbing or irrigation system repair at the location.
 - A recent line break near the sample location.
 - Contamination of the hose bibb itself.
 - Faulty sampling or testing procedures.