



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Planning Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Update on Water Main Breaks in the Distribution System
From: Darren Machado, Operations Director
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

DM
BH

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the update on water main breaks in the distribution system

SUMMARY: Water main breaks largely occur due to natural aging of pipelines. Staff will present an overview of the different aspects of water main breaks, including; impacts, trends, and repair.

DISCUSSION: The District maintains a distribution system of approximately 900 miles of pipelines to ensure delivery of high-quality water to our customers. This distribution system requires consistent maintenance by staff to deliver reliable water service to our customers and, often requires staff responses to water emergencies at all hours of the day and night. Water main breaks largely occur due to natural aging of pipeline materials and repairs may range from installing a leak clamp or installing a new section of pipe. When water main breaks occur in the distribution system, adverse impacts can result including unplanned water loss, damage to public and private infrastructure, and temporary alterations to aquatic habitats. The District’s capital improvement program has a continued focus on the replacement of aging pipeline infrastructure to identify leak prone pipelines and proactively repair and replace those portions. Staff will present an overview of the different aspects of water main breaks, including impacts, trends, and repairs.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.