

Office Memorandum

DATE: May 19, 2025

TO: Darrel Pyle, City Manager
Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer

SUBJECT: Emergency Declaration for Bishop Creek at Crossing Failure
Generally at 730 Stinson (Flats Housing Complex)

On May 7, 2025, Line Maintenance staff were advised that an 18-inch sewer aerial crossing on Bishop Creek had failed and sewage was discharging into the creek. Due to the risk to the environment, the City Manager authorized emergency repairs to prevent further sewer discharge.

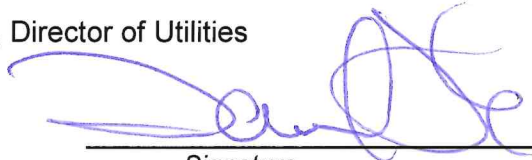
Under this declaration, staff received verbal bids to mobilize a contractor for an immediate, but temporary, reconnection of the piping. This work was completed by 10:00 pm on May 7, 2025, which eliminated the discharge but did not restore the crossing to a structurally functional crossing. Additionally, and in accordance with regulations, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and City of Norman Stormwater Quality were notified of the discharge.

Subsequent to this immediate fix, staff mobilized Garver Engineers under the current on-call contract to expedite a design to replace the existing, failed aerial crossing with bids to be received the week of May 19, 2025. The existing piers are currently leaning with further failure possible under normal weather conditions with risk even higher under wet weather flow conditions for Bishop Creek. Further failure of the structure would result in a second discharge. Completing this project using emergency provisions is necessary to eliminate the risk of failure and to expedite the bidding and contract award process.

For the aforementioned reasons, Staff recommends the declaration of an emergency so that permanent repairs can be made as soon as possible to avoid further failure of the aerial crossing resulting in another unpermitted discharge into Bishop Creek.

Reviewed by: Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities

5-22-25
Date


Signature

☒ APPROVED
☐ DISAPPROVED

BY:

☒ Darrel Pyle, City Manager
☐ Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager

Cc: City Council
City Clerk
Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities
Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney
Kenneth Giannone, Capital Projects Engineer