

MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers

From: CURO By: Jared Reese

CC: Justyn Hawkins and Anita Curran

Date: May 20, 2026

RE: The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Meeting 05/20/2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) Board of Directors met for their regular May 2026 meeting. The Executive Director reported on industrial canal repairs, community engagement, Wire Canal investigations, and workforce operations.

A. Industrial Canal Sewer Force Main

SWBNO crews removed debris around the pipe and developed a repair plan. SWBNO lifted all precautionary advisories and coordinated with city partners, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, LDEQ, and federal agencies on the force main break. SWBNO confirmed no environmental concerns remained and estimated that repairs would take seven months.

B. Community Engagement

SWBNO participated in 15 community events during Q1 2026. SWBNO announced “Water Talks,” a series of community outreach meetings scheduled in each district, beginning in the summer 2026 launch. SWBNO designated churches, facilities, and community spaces as venues.

C. Dwyer Canal Investigation

Following a meeting with residents, SWBNO identified underground sewer line defects, blockages, illicit discharges, and pump station failures. SWBNO flushed the sewer lines along neighboring Citrus Streets, installed new pumps at both stations, and corrected a pump failure at Castle Manor. SWBNO conducted smoke testing, which confirmed subsurface defects, and dye testing with CCTV inspections along Galahad Street, which identified the issues. The company identified upstream streets with persistent issues as the next locations for dye testing.

D. Workforce Operations

SWBNO closed approximately 11,000 work orders across a range of repair types.