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PRESS RELEASE

CHESTER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Chester Public Utility District is facing significant financial and infrastructure challenges as it works to maintain essential water and wastewater services for the community. Much of the District's infrastructure is approximately 60 years old and requires major investment, including water tank rehabilitation, wastewater system improvements, vehicle replacement, 60 year old water meters, and critical pipeline repairs.

The District is currently operating under serious financial constraints while also addressing increasing regulatory requirements, rising operational costs, and long-term liabilities. Although the District has secured important wastewater grants and continues to aggressively pursue additional grant funding, low-interest or no interest loans, and appropriations opportunities, the cost of necessary infrastructure replacement far exceeds current revenues.

These financial realities are a major factor in the ongoing labor negotiations. The District values its employees and recognizes the importance of fair compensation, particularly for operators performing difficult and essential field work. However, the District must also ensure that any agreements reached are financially sustainable and do not jeopardize the ability to provide services to the community in the future.

The Chester Utility District has been responding promptly to proposals throughout negotiations and continues to work diligently and in good faith to identify solutions that balance employee compensation, operational sustainability, and the long-term financial health of the District.

The District remains committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and preserving reliable utility services for the residents of Chester for years to come.