



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 9/8/2017**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The City of Caldwell extends its sincere sympathies to the households and families affected by the recent flooding when the culvert on N. Midway Road at Elijah Drain failed in the early hours of August 13, 2017. We understand the legitimate need for those affected to know why the flood occurred and the extent to which public agencies, including Caldwell, may be at fault.

Shortly after the incident, some speculated that a Caldwell water line may have caused or contributed to the culvert failure. Caldwell is confident this is not the case. While the roadway and pipe bedding washed out around the water line when the culvert collapsed, the water line remained intact and watertight until it was removed by Caldwell personnel on August 30, 2017 in order to facilitate reconstruction of the roadway.

Canyon Highway District No. 4 (CHD) has responsibility for maintenance of the N. Midway Road culvert. Several media outlets have reported allegations by CHD that Caldwell previously received an inspection report documenting the need for replacement of the culvert. While investigation into this allegation is ongoing, the facts appear to be as follows: In late 2012, Caldwell ordered an inspection of 25 road culverts within its jurisdiction. A lengthy report was completed early in 2013. Part of that report included an incomplete assessment of the N. Midway Road culvert, consisting primarily of photographs. Caldwell did not receive any narrative of the inspector's findings nor any recommendation to repair or replace the N. Midway Road culvert. And what it did receive was directed to CHD. Since the report was incomplete, related to a culvert outside Caldwell's jurisdiction, and appeared to have been prepared for CHD, Caldwell believes it was sent by the inspector in error.

It does not appear at this time that Caldwell forwarded the partial report to CHD. The circumstances clearly suggest that CHD was engaged in its own inspection regimen and had presumably received a complete assessment of the N. Midway Road culvert. Caldwell is just now learning that is not the case and, in fact, CHD may not have had an inspection program in place at all. Given these facts, and the benefit of hindsight, it is obviously unfortunate if in fact Caldwell did not forward what it received to CHD.

Caldwell will continue to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the failed culvert on N. Midway Road and its internal processes for cooperation with neighboring governmental jurisdictions like CHD.