REPORT SEWAGE SMELLS & BACK-UPS TO HOUSTON 311

To report sewage across Houston to the Mayor and Public Works, please visit: https://houston311.powerappsportals.us/en-US/ or call 311 and specify the category as sewer wastewater. Reporting to 311 is important. Even when the city does not resolve the issue properly, your report creates a record that allows us to hold the city accountable and work to address categories of under-investment over the long-term.

CONTACT PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE CONCERNS

Your representative on City Council can help you follow up with Public Works.
- Find your council district here: https://www.houstontx.gov/council/maps2020/alldistricts.pdf
- Find your council person’s contact information: http://www.houstontx.gov/council/
- Consider sharing your story at weekly city council meetings. To reserve a time to speak, contact the City Secretary at (832) 393-1100.
- When you testify, share your district, state your point quickly, be direct and respectful, and state your request of the city. Be mindful of the 3-minute time limit.

ENGAGE WITH BAYOU CITY WATERKEEPER

Get help and learn more from Bayou City Waterkeeper:
- The "Justice in the Sewers Hub" website at https://bayoucitywaterkeeper.org/justice-in-the-sewers-hub/ shares extensive information and resources related to the 2021 consent decree and sewage justice in Houston.
- Contact Bayou City Waterkeeper if you have questions or need other help. Call us at (713) 364-6323 or fill out the form on our website: https://bayoucitywaterkeeper.org/report-a-polluter/. Please provide your name, zip code, number, and a brief description of your sewage concerns.

Learn more: https://bayoucitywaterkeeper.org/justice-in-the-sewers-hub/
USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO RAISE AWARENESS

Social media may reinforce direct advocacy to your representatives.

- On your preferred platform, tell your story and encourage others to share their experiences.
- Tag the City of Houston, Houston Public Works, your elected representatives, and Bayou City Waterkeeper to increase visibility and engagement.
- Use hashtags like #PooFreeBayouCity, #JusticeintheSewers, #EnvironmentalJustice, and #CleanWater4HOU to engage others.
- Be direct and respectful when interacting with others on social media, even when you are understandably angry or upset.
- Learn more from our social media toolkit: https://bayoucitywaterkeeper.org/justice-in-the-sewers-hub/

MEDIA COMMENTS

Print, TV, and radio media coverage also may reinforce direct advocacy. Bayou City Waterkeeper can support you in amplifying your story:

**Newspaper coverage:** Contact the reporter directly and share your concerns in detail. Reporters who have covered issues related to sewage justice:

- Katie Watkins, Houston Public Media, kwatkins@houstonpublicmedia.org
- Alejandra Martinez, Texas Tribune, alejandra.martinez@texastribune.org
- Dylan McGuiness, Houston Chronicle, dylan.mcgguinness@chron.com

**Newspaper op-eds or letters to the editor:** Tell your story using your own words through an op-ed or letter to the editor.

- View the Houston Chronicle’s submission guidelines: https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/submit/.
- Op-eds must not exceed 700 words and should be submitted as a Word document to oped@chron.com.
- Letters to the editor: Keep your writing brief and clear, use specific examples, make a strong opening, be respectful, and check for errors.

**Radio/Podcast:** Send your pitch to:

- CityCast Houston: houston@citycast.fm
- Houston Public Media: news@houstonpublicmedia.org

**TV:** If you want to tell your story to a news station, here is list of journalists you can contact that might be able to help you out.

- Greg Grogan, Fox26 Houston, greg.groogan@foxtv.com
- Matt Dougherty, KHOU, mdougherty@khou.com
- Andy Cerota, Click2Houston, acerota@kpcc.com

Learn more: https://bayoucitywaterkeeper.org/justice-in-the-sewers-hub/