

Gasparillo man on bail for stolen WASA pipes

South Bureau

A 28-YEAR-OLD Gasparillo man was yesterday charged with stealing two iron pipelines from the Water and Sewerage Authority's (WASA) stockpile in Williamsville—three days after an air valve was stolen from the utility's largest main.

The 20-inch-diameter ductile iron pipes were recovered near the suspect's home in Pond Road,

off School Trace, Gasparillo, around 11 a.m.

The theft is not connected to the air valve stolen from WASA's 54-inch Caroni South transmission main system on Monday night.

An anonymous caller informed WASA the stolen air valve was being stored at a house in Gasparillo. Instead, officers found the two pipelines, WASA said.

Antonio Singh, an excavator

operator, was arrested by WASA's head of security, Anand Ramsoondar, and charged with larceny of the pipelines, valued at \$16,000. He appeared before a Justice of the Peace at the Chaguanas Magistrates' Court and was granted bail in the sum of \$50,000. He will appear before a magistrate this morning.

Following the incident on Monday, resulting in the loss of three million gallons of water

and the disruption in supply to 200,000 consumers, WASA appealed to scrap iron dealers to be on the alert for anyone selling its pipeline infrastructure.

Ellen Lewis, WASA's general manager Corporate Communications, urged the public to be vigilant and assist in finding the persons who removed the steel pipes and metal fittings from the Caroni South transmission main system.

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