

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. XXXXX
LOS ANGELES, CA

<Name> or Current Resident
<Parcel Number>
<Address>
<City, State, Zip>

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
Sewer Maintenance Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460



MARINA DEL REY Sewer Maintenance District

ANNUAL REPORT

3rd Edition

Residences, Businesses, Homeowner/Condominium Associations,
Military Facilities, Federal, and State Complexes

Sewer Maintenance Division

On July 1, 2007, Sewer Maintenance became its own Division. As a result, Sewer Maintenance with its own full time Division Administration staff, will be better prepared to more effectively manage the day-to-day activities of the Division and poised to handle future challenges.

Here are some of the major challenges that are facing Sewer Maintenance Division. The Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for collection sewer systems; new State requirements on reporting the District's sewer infrastructure; steady growth in the District's service area; growing need for the use of pumping stations; constantly changing and more complex State Board of Equalization mapping requirements; and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping conversions requiring better trained personnel.

Our Goal is to provide sewer maintenance services to protect you and the environment in a highly efficient, effective, and responsive manner. Please visit our website at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd/> and tell us how we are doing.

The information in this newsletter can be provided in an alternate format for people with disabilities. To request these accommodations, please contact Sewer Maintenance Division, Direct Assessment Unit, at (626) 300-3399, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m.



Marina del Rey Sewer Maintenance District Facilities	Length/Number
Sewer Lines	12 miles
Manhole Structures	207
Sewage Pump Stations	1
Sewage Flow to City of L.A. Facilities	1,343 mgd*
City of L.A.'s Annual Sewage Disposal Charge	\$708,397

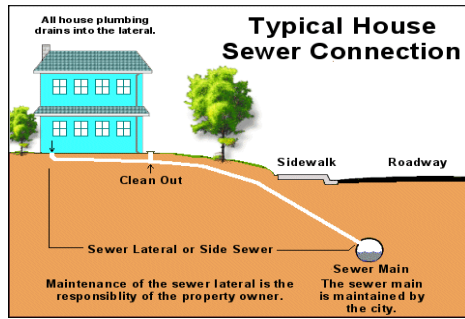
*mgd = million gallons per day

Description of Work/Event	Last Fiscal Year's Work Accomplishment
Total length of sewer lines cleaned	62,685 feet
Total number of manhole structure inspections	1,123
Total service requests responses	51
Total number of pump station inspections	89
Total number of major pump station repairs	6



MINIMIZE SEWER BACK-UPS & SAVE A BUNDLE

The Sewer System within your community is comprised of a series of underground pipes. The local mainline sewers which are typically 8 inches in diameter and located in the streets or easements are owned by the local public agency. The laterals which are typically 4 or 6 inches in diameter and extend from your home or business to the mainline are entirely owned by you and you are responsible for the maintenance of these lines. The different sewer lines are shown in the diagram below:



The Marina Sewer Maintenance District of Los Angeles County (District) is responsible for the maintenance of the mainline sewers. The private property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the sewer lateral, including the portion within the County's or City's road right of ways such as under the street and sidewalk.

Unfortunately, sewer laterals are often neglected. "Out of sight out of mind," is the typical approach to sewer lateral maintenance by many. When the laterals are not properly maintained, clogging or other damage such as root intrusion may occur and result in sewer overflows through cleanouts or sewer back-ups into homes or businesses. Sewer-back ups can cause enormous and costly damages to homes' or business' interior and exposure to raw sewage.

In addition, some properties because of their locations are required to have a back flow valve installed in the house lateral to prevent sewage from backing up into the building when there is an obstruction in the public sewer mainline.

Check with your local building officials or plumber to determine if your lateral has a back flow valve and if so, make sure it is properly maintained. To learn more about a back flow valve, go to our Department's web site at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/tabRes.cfm> and click on the back flow valve link.

Things to do to Keep Sewer Lines Clear

The perfect environment for tree roots to grow

Be aware of hidden dangers from your trees. They might be beautiful and add shade to your landscapes but deep down the roots may be damaging your sewer lines.

Sewer lines contain water, nutrients, and oxygen attracting roots that can grow through the cracks and joints of the pipes eventually causing backups and damages that could be very costly.

To help minimize the problem, homeowners should avoid planting certain trees such as poplars, willows, or elms near their sewer laterals. Plant small, slow growing trees that have a less aggressive root system such as Japanese maples or flowering dogwoods. Remember to replace them when they get too large for the area.

Periodic video inspection of the sewer lateral by your plumber will help determine the condition and if any repairs are needed. If there is damage, promptly make repairs, line or replace the lateral as needed.

Keep rainwater out

It is important to keep rainwater out of sewer lines.

The sewer system is designed to hold a certain capacity of domestic wastewater flow. When rainwater enters the sewer line it will overwhelm the system and cause sewer spills.

To prevent this from happening, follow these tips:

Inspect your rain gutters and make sure the downspout is NOT connected to the sewer line. Direct it either to the lawn and/or storm drain system.

Look for and check your sewer cleanout. Make sure the cap to the cleanout pipe is not missing and/or damaged.

Check to see that the outdoor patio, deck, or yard drains are not connected to the sewer.

Make sure that the pool or pond overflow drains is not connected to the sewer.

It is illegal to have these drains connected to the sewer line. Such connections will be fined.



Most common causes of overflows are Fat, Oil, and Grease (FOG)

The most common cause of sewer overflows is from the accumulation of FOG in the sewer system. FOG is a byproduct of cooking, most commonly found in meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, dairy products, etc. These products harden and stick to the inside of the sewer pipes (both on your property and under the streets) building up and eventually causing a blockage in the sewer pipe.



To prevent any build up in the sewer pipes, **DO NOT** pour the above-mentioned products down the sink or toilet.

Paper towel or any absorbent materials should be used to absorb or wipe off excess FOG from pots, pans, plates, etc. before placing them in the sink. Meat scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and other solid foods should be put in the trashcan and NOT in the garbage disposal. Rinse your dirty rags and shoes outside and not in the sink. Keep disposable diapers, Q-tips, Kleenex, dental floss, etc., out of the sewer to help keep it clean and clear.

If you would like to learn more, please visit our web site <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

If you see an overflow, please call our help line immediately!!



CONTACTS

To get more information, learn more about the Department of Public Works, or report problems online, please visit our website: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

To locate your nearest Building and Safety office, please go to http://ladpw.org/general/facilities/app_building.cfm

For questions or comments regarding this Annual Report, call (626) 300-3399

If you see a Sewage Overflow notify the Department of Public Works IMMEDIATELY! 1-800-675-HELP(4357)

If you like to write to us, please send all inquiries to:

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sewer Maintenance Division
P.O. Box 1475
Alhambra, CA 91802-1475

"We provide sewer maintenance services to protect the public and the environment in a highly-efficient, effective, and responsive manner."