

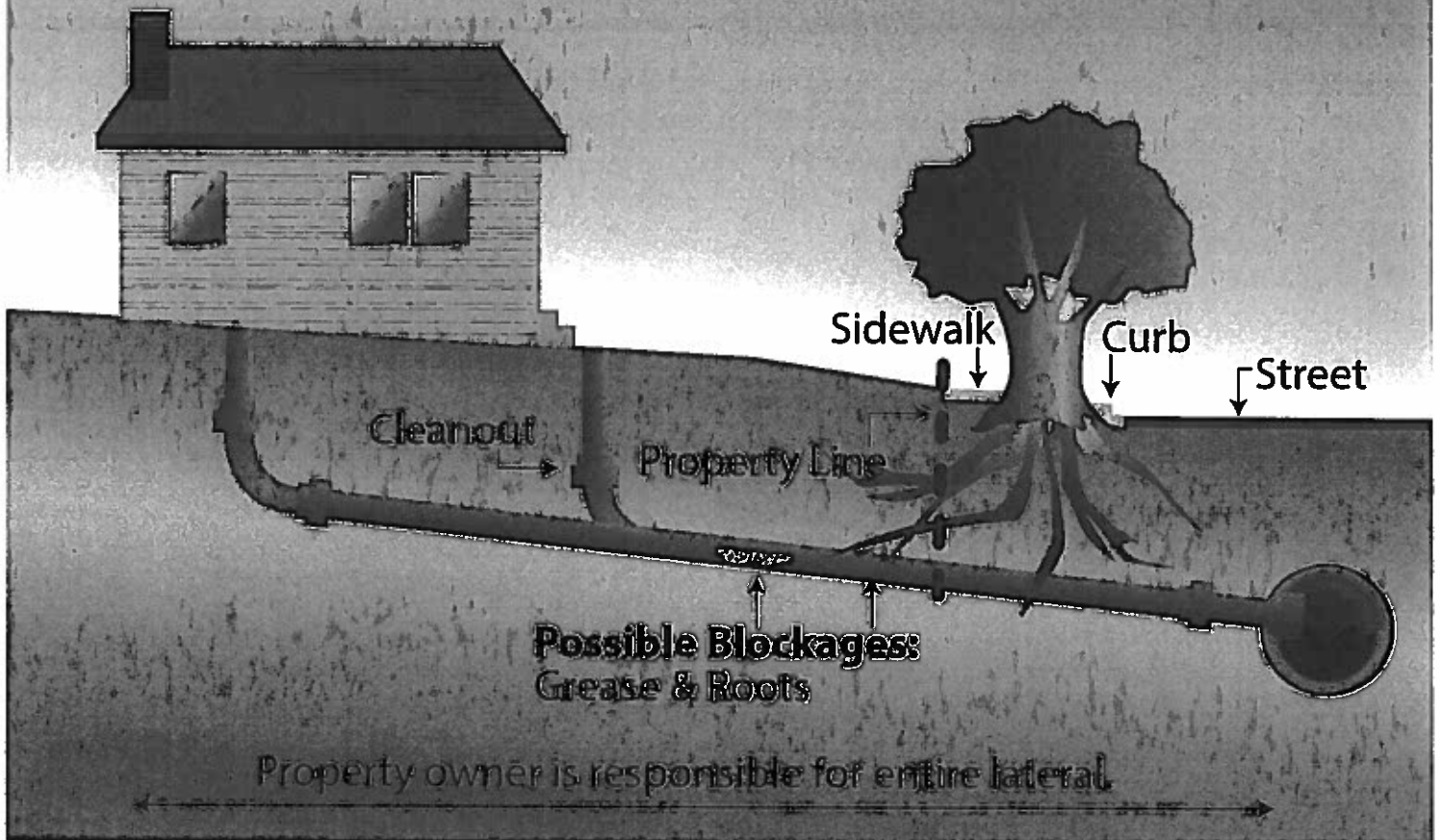
Attachment No. 2

**Other Jurisdictions Sewer Lateral Policies & Program
Information**

SEWER LATERAL MAINTENANCE

City of Santa Ana Public Works Agency

Private Property Sewer Lateral



Wastewater from your residence is carried to the City's sewer main through a sewer lateral pipe. As a property owner you are responsible for the maintenance, operation, cleaning, repair, and reconstruction of your lateral. In some cases, if warranted, the City can assist property owners with sewer lateral repairs or replacement. Read the following FAQs for more information.

SEWER LATERAL REPAIR/REPLACEMENT SUPPORT
(714) 647-3320



SEWER LATERAL MAINTENANCE

City of Santa Ana Public Works Agency

What is a private sanitary sewer lateral?

A private sanitary sewer lateral is an underground pipe that is part of your home's plumbing. It conveys wastewater from your home to the City's sewer system.

What is a cleanout?

A cleanout is a vertical pipe from an underground lateral to the surface. If your home doesn't have a cleanout, you may want to add one near your house.

Who is responsible for the maintenance of the private sewer lateral?

Property owners are solely responsible for maintenance, operation, cleaning, repair and reconstruction for the entire length of the private sewer lateral from their house to the point of connection with the City's public sewer main.

Does the city have a lateral assistance program?

The City has established a program that, when possible, allows the City to provide assistance in the replacement or repair of severely damaged private sewer laterals. Where City resources are available, the program uses City crews to repair or replace the portion of your private lateral within the public right-of-way. This can be a significant cost savings to you. For more information about the City's Sewer Lateral Repair or Replacement Program please call (714) 647-3320.

Who is eligible for the program?

Property owners whose private sewer laterals connect to the City's sewer system are eligible for the program. However, the lateral must have a cleanout to allow access for inspection equipment. The lateral must also be free of debris (roots, grease, etc.) that could prevent City inspection equipment access through the entire length of the lateral.

What do I need to do before I ask the City for lateral assistance?

Ensure that your lateral has been cleaned (or jetted) by a professional plumber. Ask your plumber to provide evidence that lateral was properly cleaned (i.e. CD/DVD).

If an inspection identifies damage to your private lateral (within the public right-of-way) that warrants repairs or replacement, please contact the City at (714) 647-3320 for further assistance. If your plumber provides an inspection video, the City can assist with your review of it.

Why are defective laterals a problem?

Broken sewer laterals can allow roots or debris into the pipe, which may cause blockages, backups, or overflows. Leaking pipes can also allow wastewater to reach groundwater, which may contribute to water pollution or cause sinkholes. Sewer laterals should be routinely maintained and inspected to assess its condition and identify the need for repairs or replacement. This is not a service provided by the City and is the homeowner's responsibility.

Why is it important to keep rainwater from entering sanitary laterals?

Defects and prohibited connections to private sanitary laterals allow rain and surface water to enter the City's sewers. This extra water increases treatment costs and may overload the public sewer system causing overflows. Prohibited connections include roof downspouts, groundwater sump pumps, foundation drains, and drains from window wells, driveways, etc.

How can I protect my property from a sewer overflow?

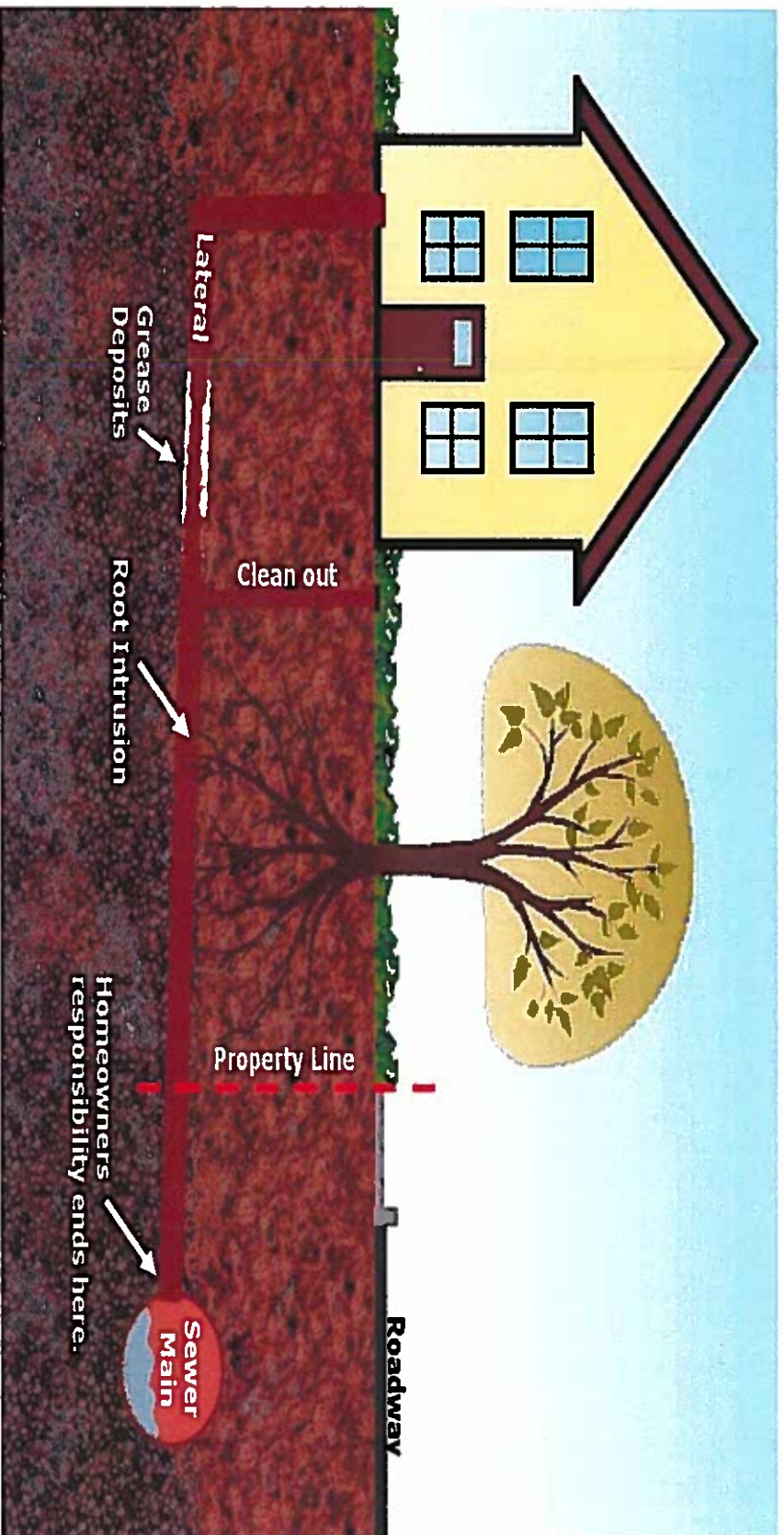
Help protect your property and the environment by following these tips:

- Routinely clear roots, grease, debris, or blockages in the lateral all the way to the connection to the sewer main.
- Routinely inspect your lateral to assess its condition and identify the need for repairs or replacement.
- Maintain/repair your private sewer lateral to meet current regulations and area plumbing codes.
- Remove any prohibited storm water connections.
- Know where your cleanout is located for quick access to clear blockages or stop backups.
- Keep your cleanout cap on and in good shape. This keeps out rain and debris that can cause blockages, back-ups or overflows.



SEWER LATERAL REPAIR/REPLACEMENT SUPPORT (714) 647-3320

CSA.109 0515



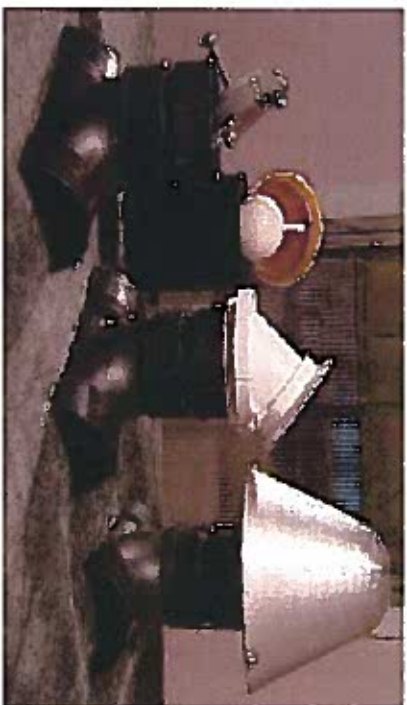
The sewer system within the City of Fullerton is comprised of a series of underground pipes. Many are publicly owned; however, the sewer laterals are entirely owned by the private property owner they serve. The laterals extend from the building to the mainline within the street (or within an easement at the rear of your home). The laterals are typically four inches in diameter while the City's mainline is typically at least eight inches in diameter. The private property owner is responsible for the entire length of the lateral, which includes that portion that may be located within the public right of way (under the asphalt and street landscaping).

Sewer backups can cause tremendous damage to the interior of a home. In order to minimize these, the City provides continual maintenance services for the public sewer mainlines.

Unfortunately, sewer laterals are often not maintained by private property owners until a disaster strikes. Out of sight, out of mind is a typical approach to sewer lateral maintenance and operation by many. It is our hope that we can provide you various means of addressing these issues and thus minimize your risk of an overflow entering your home. The three methods we suggest are:

1. Maintain your lateral through proper cleaning, repair, and replacement. Tree roots can enter the pipe through cracks or loose joints.
2. Do not place improper items into the sewer or make improper connections to the sewer
 - a. Keep rainwater out of the sewer lines as it overwhelms the capacity of the sewer lines and may cause sewer spills.
 - b. Do not pour fats, oils, and grease in your drains as these products harden and stick to the inside of the sewer pipes, which build up and may eventually cause a blockage in the sewer pipe.
3. Install a backflow preventer and cleanout in your sewer lateral. Refer to examples pictured above.

Taking these simple steps can help keep the flow going, and prevent costly overflows and damage. The City of Fullerton Sewer staff is here to help answer any sewer related questions or concerns. Call us at (714) 738-6897.



[Meetings & Agendas](#)

[Subscribe to elist](#)

[Pay Water Bill](#)

CityofFullerton.com

Home Owner Responsibility (SLMP)

Sewer Home

Sewer Lateral Maintenance Program

Sewer Service Fee

Homeowner Responsibility (SLMP)

Sewer Analysis

Other Water Bill Questions

Fats, Oils, & Grease

Did you know that YOU, as a homeowner, have a responsibility with maintaining the sewer system?

Homeowners are required to maintain the lateral connection from their home, to the main sewer line, typically located in the street, or nearby easement. Maintaining the lateral includes keeping the lateral line flowing and free of debris such as roots, or grease.

CITY OF ANAHEIM SAME AS



TREE ROOTS IN THE SEWER?

Frequently Asked Questions

What does my sewer look like? Generally, your sewer lateral is 4 to 6 inches in diameter and is made of vitrified clay, PVC, ABS or iron pipe. The sewer lateral is anywhere from 2 to 6 feet underground and runs from your house to a main line connection in the street. There are various joints along the lateral and where the lines connect to the house and the main line under the street. These joints generally use rubber or other soft material to seal the connections.

Who maintains the lateral? The homeowner owns and is responsible for maintaining the sewer lateral from the connection at the house to the connection at the main line under the street. Another public agency, the Costa Mesa Sanitary District, owns and is responsible for maintaining the main line under the street. They may be reached at (949) 645-8400.

How did the roots get in the sewer lateral? Trees, bushes and plants need water and nutrients in order to survive and will seek out the easiest source of water and nutrients. Generally, when roots encounter the sewer lateral, nothing will happen because they will grow over and around the lateral. However, if there is a leak, no matter how small, tiny hair like roots will enter the lateral and rapidly grow on the nutrient rich material. Eventually, these roots may block the lateral and back-up the system.

Who is responsible for the damage? Responsibility depends on why the roots entered the sewer lateral. Generally, the City is responsible for damage only when the City has determined that tree roots from a City tree have misaligned or broken the sewer lateral line. In all other cases, the City is not responsible. Earth movement, normal expansion and contraction of the soil, defective construction, improper maintenance, and private property tree roots can cause the sewer lateral to misalign, allowing roots to enter at the joint or connection.

But the roots came from the tree in the parkway. Parkway are the public right-of-way from the back of the curb to the private property line and can include landscaping and/or sidewalk. Standard widths vary from 5 feet to 10 feet depending on the type of street, i.e. primary, secondary, residential, etc. The City owns and maintains many thousands of trees in these parkways, but the presence of a City tree in the parkway does not automatically mean the City is responsible for the damage. The City is responsible for damage to a homeowner's sewer lateral when the City tree's roots misalign or wrap around it and break or crush the pipe itself. However, if the roots entered at the joint due to the sewer lateral being misaligned for any other reason, the homeowner is responsible.

How do I prove where the roots entered the sewer lateral? In order to prove why and where the roots entered, it is necessary to excavate the sewer lateral. Once it is exposed, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure City representatives can inspect the sewer lateral and determine exactly why and where the roots entered. No roots should be cut or removed because it is critical for the City's representative to see how they have grown. It is also recommended that the homeowner videotape the lateral to determine the location of the damage.

Who pays to dig up the sewer lateral? The homeowner must pay for the excavation of the sewer lateral. However, if the City representative determines the City tree caused the damage to the sewer lateral, the City will then pay for the repair of the portion of the line damaged and the portion of the excavation needed to expose the damaged sewer lateral. If the roots entered due to the sewer lateral being misaligned or for any other reason, the homeowner is responsible for the entire cost of excavation and repair. If the City does pay for a portion of the repair but the homeowner has the entire line replaced, the homeowner is responsible for paying for the rest of the replacement and the portion of the excavation not related to the repairs the City pays for.

I want the tree removed. The City has established criteria that permit the removal of trees. For further information on removing trees, please contact the Public Services Department, Maintenance Division at (714) 754-5123. If removal of your tree is approved, please be aware that this does not necessarily mean the City is responsible for your sewer lateral damage. As explained above, responsibility depends on why the roots entered the sewer lateral.

I want to file a claim. The law provides specific guidelines for filing a claim with a municipality. For further information on obtaining a claim form, please contact the Risk Management Division at (714) 754-5228.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Sewer Lateral Program

Policy and Procedure

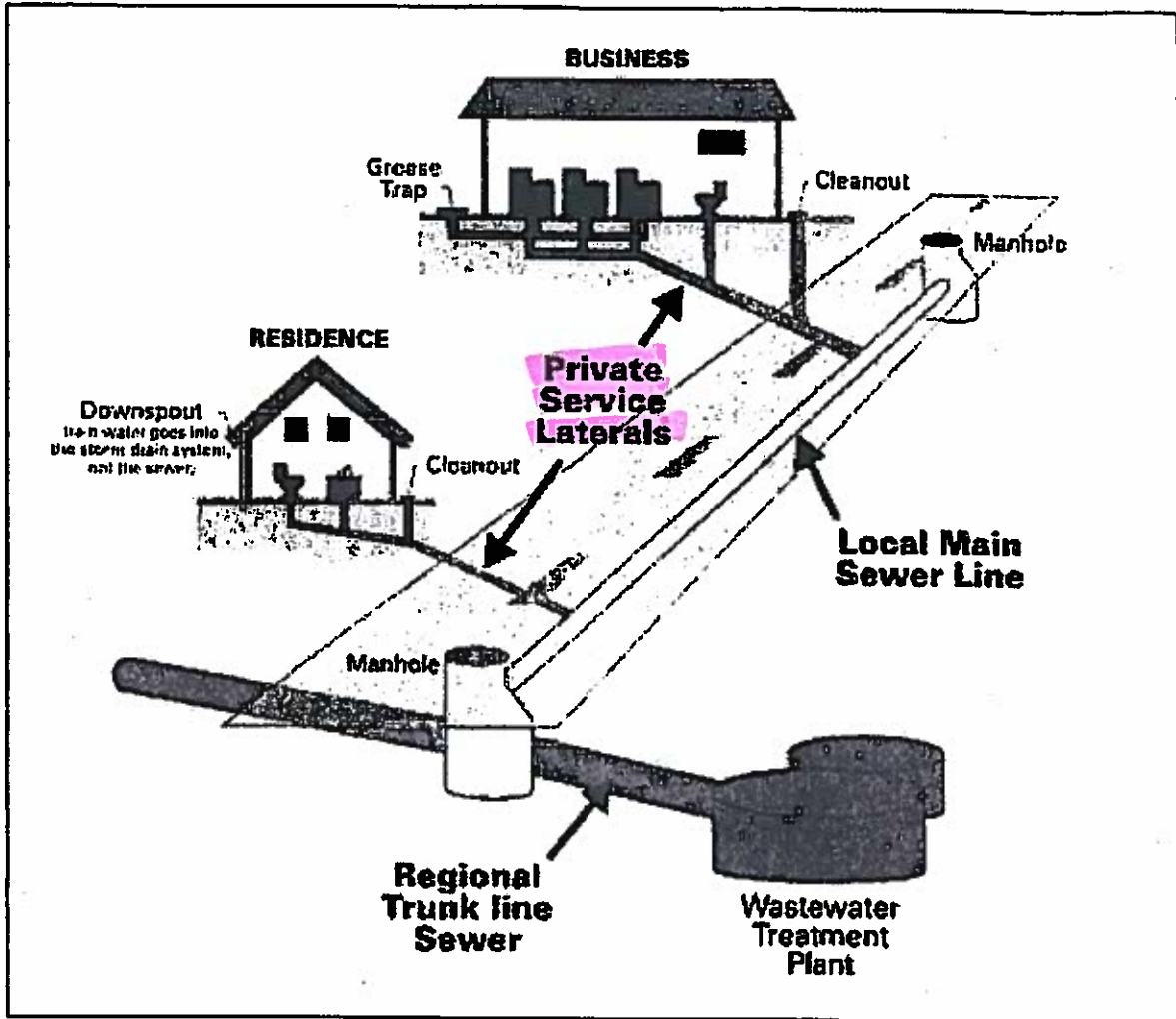
Effective January 3, 2008, the City instituted a policy regarding the repair and maintenance of sewer lateral lines. The City is responsible for the portion of all sewer laterals from the City-owned sewer main through the public right-of-way to the private property line. The property owner will remain responsible for all costs of repair and maintenance of that portion of the sewer lateral on private property.

Sewer Lateral Program Procedure

1. A property owner experiencing problems with their sewer lateral calls the Public Works Utilities Division (714-536-5921) to notify them of a concern with their sewer lateral line.
2. The Utilities Division contacts the property owner informing them that the sewer lateral must be cleaned and videoed by a qualified contractor. The property owner will be responsible for the initial cost of the video.
3. Utilities Division staff reviews the video to determine if a repair is needed and whether the needed repairs are within the City-owned right-of-way.
4. Depending on the situation there are two options for repair:
 - 1) Slip Lining both the sewer line at the public right of way and on the homeowner's private property leaving the parkway tree intact. In this case, the city arborist will determine that the integrity of the tree is not impacted by the repairs made to the sewer line. The homeowner is responsible for the cost of slip lining the sewer line on their private property.
 - 2) In a case where it is determined that the tree must be removed to complete the repair and it falls within the City's responsibility, the City will initiate repairs at the City's cost and reimburse the cost of the video to the property owner.

Questions regarding the Sewer Lateral Program should be directed to the Public Works Utilities Division at 714-536-5921.

Please note – the first course of action for a blocked sewer line is a call to a qualified plumber or sewer contractor. Often, cleaning of the line is needed immediately and residents should not wait for the evaluation to be completed. The need for frequent cleaning/rooting of the line is an indication of a possible sewer lateral break or tree root intrusion.



Why do food facilities need to know about FOG?

The 2000-2001 Orange County Grand Jury conducted an investigation among the 35-sewer collection and treatment agencies in Orange County. It found that an accumulation of fats, oils, and grease discharged from restaurants is the leading cause of sanitary sewer overflows.

In February 2002, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Order R8-2002-0014, which prohibits sewer overflows and requires Orange County cities to monitor and control these overflows. Cities are also required to develop and implement a FOG Control Program. The program will require restaurants and food preparation facilities to follow but not be limited to implementing kitchen BMP's, consider installing a grease interceptor,

develop a grease control plan, produce waste-hauling records, and/or share the costs incurred by the City to clean-out blockages in the sewer line.

How is FOG monitored? How is it enforced?

The City of Cypress maintains a record of maps of the entire sewer collection systems in the city and uses video surveillance cameras to identify blockages caused by FOG wastes. The City of Cypress can use this information to identify the sources that are contributing to the sewer blockages, and can initiate enforcement actions against businesses to insure compliance with the State and City laws. As mentioned previously, physical damage can occur when sewer overflows of raw sewage backs up into a residence or business, as a result of sewer pipes blocked by FOG wastes.

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

Public Sewer Lines:

Public Sewer Lines are those lines designed and constructed in accordance with District Standards, are the property of or have been dedicated to and accepted by the District and are located in public rights of way or legally established utility easements.

Private Sewer Lines:

Private Sewer Lines are lines not defined as Public Sewer Lines. For the purpose of this schedule, Private Sewer Lines will be limited to sewer laterals and collection lines located outside of commercial buildings and residential dwelling units.

Limits of Responsibility

The following identifies the limits of the District's responsibility regarding facilities:

The District is responsible for the maintenance and operation of all public wastewater facilities that have been designed and constructed to meet District standards, have been dedicated to and accepted by the District and is located in public rights-of-way or legally established easements.

The District is not responsible for the maintenance and operation of private wastewater facilities that have not been dedicated to or accepted by the District, such as internal and external building sewer laterals serving commercial and residential customers.

Background/Purpose

The District owns, operates and maintains a public wastewater system throughout the District's service area consisting of collector sewers, pumping stations and pressurized force mains, all of which transport wastewater to the District's Water Recycling Plant for treatment and disposal. All of the District sewer facilities are constructed within legally established easements and public rights-of-way or on property directly owned by the District. The District policy is to implement the best available procedures of operation and maintenance of the public sewer system in order to protect natural resources and the environment within the District and the related watershed area as well as the Pacific Ocean. Hence, the District maintains all of its wastewater system facilities on a regular basis so as to minimize the opportunity for accidental discharges or spillage of wastewater. Local, State and Federal regulations establish Waste Discharge Requirements Prohibiting Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) from sanitary sewer systems at any point upstream of the District's Water Recycling Plant.

The maintenance of private sewer systems and compliance with applicable SSO regulations for private sewer systems are the responsibility of the private property owner. The District has determined that private sewer systems can be the source of accidental spills of wastewater due to

broken lines or blockages. It is the District's objective to educate its customers regarding applicable SSO regulations and the necessity to employ best available procedures for operation and maintenance of their private sewer systems. In an effort to take all measures possible to further minimize the risk of wastewater spills within the District's service area, the District may provide the following service programs on a case-by-case basis.

1. Emergency Cleanup/Repair Assistance Program For Private Sewer Lines (Residential and Commercial)

A.1.

The cost of emergency response and repairs (line cleaning/blockage clearing) and sewer spill clean up to private sewer lines that are performed by the District with or without request of the property owner may be charged to the property owner.

A.2.

Emergency response, repairs and clean-up of private sewer lines shall be performed by the District if the District determines that the continued operation of these facilities constitutes a health and safety hazard, or creates a physical threat to surrounding properties.

A.3.

District shall provide sanitary sewer overflow notification to appropriate regulatory and public health agencies in accordance with applicable Local, State and Federal Waste Discharge and SSO Reporting Requirements.

B. Scope of Services

Emergency sanitary sewer overflow responses include but are not limited to locating problem origin, breaking/clearing the line stoppage and providing external (outside the commercial building or residential dwelling unit) pollution cleanup.

C. Fees For District Provided Emergency Services

An amount to be determined by the District's General Manager on a case-by-case basis, based on the District's published rate schedule for actual cost of emergency service provided.

2. Preventative Maintenance Assistance Program For Private Sewer Systems (Residential & Commercial)

A.



Customer Care

[Pay Bill - Customer Login](#)

[Bill Payment Options](#)

[Bill Payment Questions](#)

[Understanding Your Bill](#)

more v

[Backflow Prevention](#)

[Recycled Water](#)

[Recycled Water Fill Station](#)

[Sewer Service](#)

[Urban Runoff](#)

[Water & Your Pipes](#)

[Water Leaks](#)

[Water Quality Report](#)

[Water Quality Testing for Schools](#)

[Water Supply & Reliability](#)

[WaterStar Business Recognition](#)

Quick Links

[50 Years of Recycled Water](#)

[San Diego Creek Water Rights](#)

[Dam Safety Program](#)

[Board Meetings & Agendas](#)

[Transparency & Compensation](#)

[Water Quality Information](#)

[Water Quality Testing at Schools](#)

[Equal Access to Groundwater](#)

[IRWD Rosedale Rio Bravo WISP Application](#)

[Water Desalination Information](#)

Sewer

Services / Sewer Service

Share |

Print



The IRWD sewer system collects wastewater from homes and businesses within the service area. Sewage travels through the collection system and is conveyed to two treatment plants through more than 900 miles of sewer distribution pipelines. The Michelson Water Recycling Plant in Irvine treats up to 18 million gallons of wastewater per day and the Los Alisos Water Recycling Plant in Lake Forest treats up to 5.5 million gallons per day. This treated water is then put into the recycled water system for irrigation and other uses in the community. Every drop of recycled water used, helps to save a drop of drinking water.

Sewer System Management Plan

The SSMP is a plan and schedule for the maintenance, operation and management of the sewer system.

[IRWD Sewer Management Plan](#)

[IRWD Sewer Management Plan Appendices](#)

Storm Drains

Storm drains are a completely different system. Storm drains collect rain water and other urban runoff from the community. This water travels through street gutters to storm drains, which in our area channel the runoff to San Diego Creek and eventually to the ocean. Storm drains are not the responsibility of IRWD. Within city limits they are the responsibility of the city government; in unincorporated areas they are the responsibility of the County of Orange. It is important to remember that water from storm drains does not go through a treatment plant for cleaning. Any trash or pollutants thrown into the street or storm drains will eventually reach Newport Bay and the ocean. Citizens can do their part by not overwatering their landscaping, thereby reducing the amount of unnecessary runoff that reaches the ocean. And, of course, don't litter.

Sewer Laterals - Who's Responsible?

Most homeowners don't tend to think about sewers until there is a backup in their plumbing. Anyone who has ever had a sewer backup would agree it is an unpleasant problem that can be costly if ignored. If you find that your drains are moving slowly, that's an early indication that there might be the beginning of a blockage.

Often, the question arises – where does the responsibility of the customer begin and end and when does it become the responsibility of IRWD? The upper sewer lateral – the line leading from the residence to the edge of the property line – and the lower lateral, which connects into the sewer mainline, is the responsibility of the customer to maintain. In addition, customers are responsible for making any repairs to the upper lateral only. If repairs are needed on the lower lateral, that is the responsibility of IRWD.



A typical sewer system is constructed of a network of pipes connecting to each building and transporting wastewater to IRWD's two wastewater recycling plants. Sewer clogs can lead to sewer spills. There are many ways to prevent such spills:

- Never put fats, grease or oils down drains, garbage disposals, or toilets. Instead, place oils into a jar or can and throw it into the garbage can for collection.
- Do not put disposable rags or wipes down drains or toilets. Even if the product claims to be "flushable," it is not and causes clogs and damage to sewer pumps.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs near sewer laterals because root intrusion can cause serious blockages and damage to the lines.
- Perform periodic cleaning and inspections to your sewer laterals to ensure the lines are running free and there are no clogs or root intrusions.

IRWD crews are a good source of unbiased information and are always available to help our customers decide on a course of action. All you need to do is contact us if you have questions.

Latest News





IRWD Wins Innovation Award For Energy Storage Program

The IRWD Energy Storage Project was recently selected as a winner at the 6th Annual Golden Hub of Innovation Awards by the Association of California Cities - Orange County (ACC-OC). The Golden Hub of Innovation Awards recognizes local agencies, cities and...



IRWD Professionals Assure Water Quality

When it comes to delivering safe water to our customers, the bottom line is that Irvine Ranch Water District meets or exceeds all state and federal guidelines for drinking water. Ensuring that quality on a day-to-day basis is the primary responsibility...



Posters Chosen for Annual Contest

Five posters created by students who attend school in the Irvine Ranch Water District service area were selected for judging in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" poster contest. IRWD judges selected the posters from among many...

Irvine Ranch Water District
© Irvine Ranch Water District

Connect with Us
Connect with us to see our daily updates

Site Map

[Home](#)

[Water](#)

[Sewer](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Environment](#)

[Community Programs](#)

[Doing Business](#)

[About Us](#)

[Liquid News](#)

[Account Access](#)

[View & Pay eBill](#)

[Payment Option](#)

[Bill Payment Questions](#)

[Understanding Your Bill](#)

[Start/Stop Service](#)

[Your Water Meter](#)

[Water Leak](#)

How can we help you?

Private Sewer Lateral Program

The City offers an incentive to encourage and assist homeowners with the repair or replacement of their sewer lateral line. Homeowners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the entire sewer lateral from the private home to the point of connection (including the connection) with the public main sewer line.

The City of Laguna Beach will reimburse up to 50% of the homeowner's cost to repair or replace a private sewer lateral, up to a maximum of \$1,600 per residential parcel. **This does not cover private lateral cleaning or emergency repairs.**

For more program details and restrictions, please review the [Private Sewer Lateral Incentive Application](#) and the [Participating Plumbers List](#).

City Hall Hours

M-Th: 7:30 - 5:30

Every other Friday: 7:30 - 4:30

Every other Friday: closed

city of
LAGUNA BEACH

505 Forest Avenue

Laguna Beach, California 92651

(949) 497-3311

(949) 497-0771 (fax)

[Contact Us](#)



CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

BUSINESS
Working Together

COMMUNITY
Getting Connected

YOUR GOVERNMENT
Departments and Services

I WANT TO...
Start Here

[Home](#) > [Community](#) > [Services](#) > [Utilities](#) 🔍 Search

Calendar

Latest News

Services

- > [Long Beach Animal Care](#)
- > [Coyote Mitigation](#)
- > [Wildlife Watch Area](#)
- > [Building and Safety](#)
- > [Code Enforcement](#)
- > [Community Development](#)
- > [Police](#)
- > [Fire](#)
- > [Street Sweeping](#)
- > [Telephone Users Tax](#)
- > [Trash Collection](#)
- > [Utilities](#)
- > [External Links](#)

Emergency Preparedness

Events

History of Los Alamitos

Los Alamitos Television

Moving To Los Alamitos

Recreation Programs

Schools

Electricity



Electrical service in the City of Los Alamitos is provided by **Southern California Edison**. For more information visit www.sce.com or call Southern California Edison at (800) 655-4555. To report a Power Outage, call (800) 611-1911.

Edison SmartConnect is the new smart metering system. Approximately 5 million of SCE's residential and small-business customers are getting new, smart meters in place of older, mechanical meters.

Refuse and Recycling Collection

The City contracts with **Republic Services**, formally Consolidated Waste Management, for refuse and recycling. For more information contact Consolidated Services at 800-299-4898.



Rossmoor / Los Alamitos Sewer District



The **Rossmoor / Los Alamitos Sewer District** maintains all common sewer lines, which are the main lines that run down the center of the street. The District is responsible for the cleaning, inspection, repair, and maintenance of the main sewer lines. For more information call (562) 431-2223, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The District's 24-hour Emergency Response Line is (562) 431-2223.

Water

Golden State Water provides water service in the City of Los Alamitos. They are located at 10852 Cherry Street, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-2444. Please visit www.gswater.com. For 24-hour Customer Service or Emergency Service, call (800) 999-4033. For TTY hearing impaired, call (877) 933-9533.



[External Links](#) – The links listed are provided per the request of the organization.

MIDWAY CITY SANITARY DISTRICT

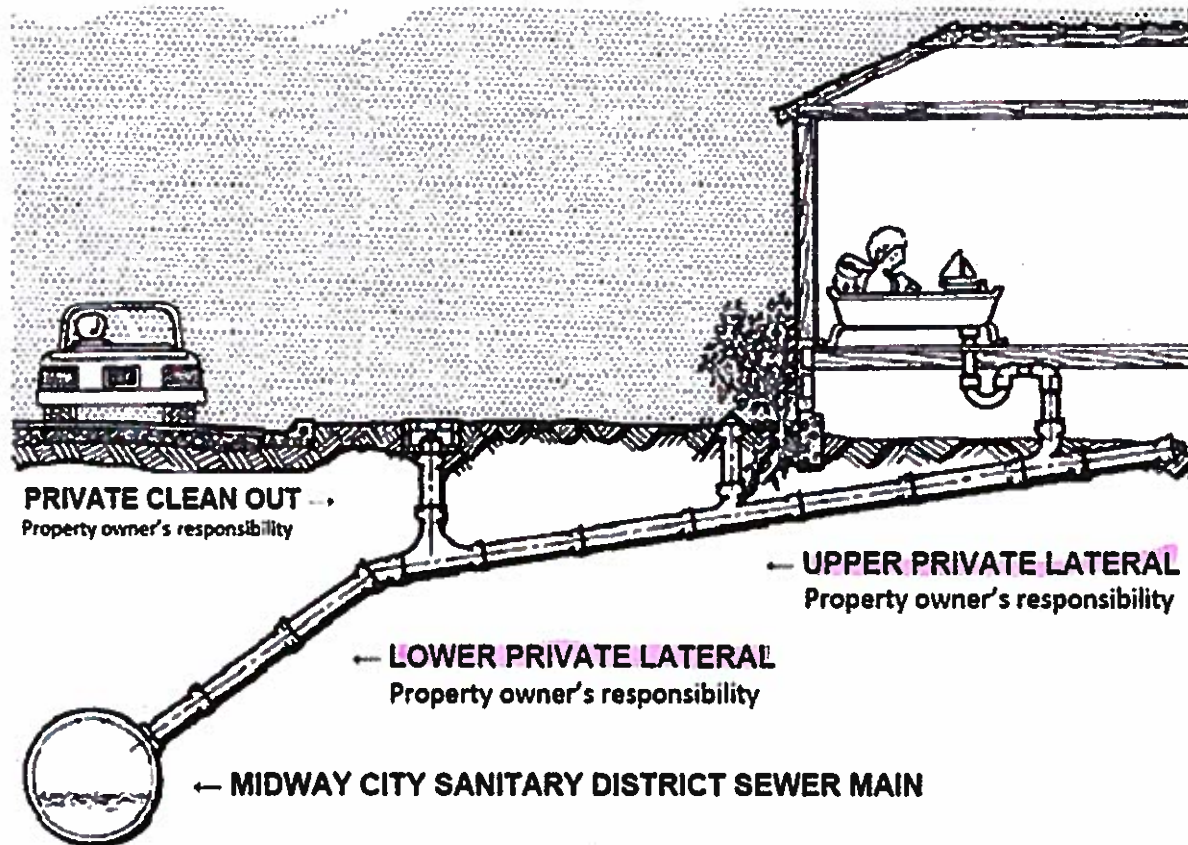
Sewer Service Laterals

What Are They and Who Is Responsible for Maintenance?

Private sewer service laterals, which typically are not under the jurisdiction of public wastewater agencies, are not always sufficiently maintained and can contribute to inflow and infiltration (I/I) problems, cause blockages and play a role in sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

What is a sewer lateral?

The private sewer service lateral (also known as a private lateral) is a pipe that takes an individual building's wastewater to the public sewer main in the street. These private laterals are owned by the building owner and are essential for directing wastewater away from homes, churches, schools and businesses to a publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment system.



As illustrated in the diagram, there are both upper and lower private laterals. The upper lateral runs from the home or business to a cleanout at the sidewalk or sometimes the property line. The

lower lateral runs from the cleanout to the sewer main in the street. If no cleanout is in place, the private lateral is usually not considered split between upper and lower portions.

Who is responsible for private laterals?

MIDWAY CITY SANITARY DISTRICT GENERAL REGULATION ORDINANCE NO.13 SECTION 19

All house connections, street laterals and appurtenances thereto shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition, and all devices or safeguards which are required by the ordinance shall be maintained in good working order. This is the financial responsibility of the property owner. Except as hereinafter provided, all such house connections, street laterals, appurtenances and devices shall be maintained by the owner of the property served thereby.

In California, public agencies are required by the State Water Resources Control Board to manage and maintain the public portion of wastewater systems to minimize the likelihood of sanitary sewer overflows. Regular maintenance of agency-owned sewer lines typically includes scheduled cleaning, inspection and rehabilitation or replacement of defective lines to make them structurally sound and watertight. However, no similar statewide program exists for property owners to regularly clean, inspect and otherwise maintain the private laterals. Most often, property owners only attend to laterals in cases of complete stoppages or emergency failure.

Why are unmaintained sewer laterals cause for concern?

Many older homes still rely on original sewer laterals that over time have become cracked, disjointed or damaged by roots, earth settlement or grease blockages.

Unmaintained private laterals that become blocked or fail can contribute to SSOs of the public sewer system or to sewage backups into the building served by the private lateral. Some of the causes for concern for unmaintained private laterals are described below:

- Root intrusion into the private lateral can contribute to SSOs in two ways. One way is that extra water can enter the sewer system through cracks in private laterals created by roots. This extra groundwater and storm water seeps in or “infiltrates” the public sewer mains, with the potential to cause wastewater collection and treatment system overloads such as SSOs. The other way is when a plumber cleans out a lateral blocked by roots, the plumber sometimes will push the root mass into the public sewer main. This mass can then cause a blockage in the public sewer main, cause wastewater to back up and result in an SSO.
- Earth settlement that results in cracks and leaks in the private lateral allows for the “inflow” of groundwater into the private lateral. This additional groundwater flows into the public sewer main, increases the wastewater flow in the collection system and has the potential to overload the system, creating SSOs.

- If roof drains, irrigation drains and driveway drains are connected (illegally) to the private lateral, this increases the “infiltration” of rain water into the public sewer system, which can lead to system overloads.
- Grease build-up in the private lateral (like plaque in a person’s artery) can cause blockages that potentially result in on-site SSOs or backups of wastewater into the building that is served by the blocked private lateral.

The combination of inflow and infiltration from private laterals, across a wide area (neighborhoods or commercial districts), can significantly increase the wastewater flow in the public sewer main and to the treatment plant. Infiltration and inflow from private laterals are currently a major source of SSOs in some communities.

What is the magnitude of the sewer lateral problem?

The magnitude varies considerably among different systems. It is estimated that private laterals can constitute as much as 50 percent of the total length of all the pipelines in some wastewater systems. Therefore, it is likely that poorly maintained laterals can contribute significantly to I/I problems or produce blockages and resulting SSOs. This is especially true during wet weather if roof or driveway drains are illegally adding flow to the private laterals.

What are strategies for managing sewer laterals?

Property owners should be encouraged to inspect their private lateral upon property transfer and then at least once every five to 10 years to determine if it is defective or if a blockage is building up in the line. If problems exist, a contractor should be hired to correct the problem.

POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REPLACE SEWER LATERALS AT SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES

Overview

The Midway City Sanitary District (“District”) is obligated by State law to prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (“SSOs”), which may in some cases result in sewage reaching the storm water system and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. Sewer laterals are privately owned and maintained to the point of connection with District sewer mains. Poorly maintained sewer laterals can cause SSOs, as well as backups in residential toilets, which can cause damage to property. The District is concerned about the inflow and infiltration into the public sewer system from privately owned and maintained sewer laterals. The District’s Board of Directors (“Board”) finds that in furtherance of the District’s mission, it is in the best interest of its sewer system ratepayers to participate in the needed upgrades of deficient sewer laterals, to provide an incentive to residential homeowners to remedy such deficiencies and to establish a program for financial assistance to replace sewer laterals (“Program”).

The Program shall operate to the extent that the Board allocates monies for the Program annually within the budget. Once allocated monies have been exhausted, the Program is finished for that budget year.

Eligibility Criteria

A sewer lateral that is eligible for this Program is that portion of the lateral pipe that

carries household wastewater discharged from the residential unit to the District sewer main and which lies between a point just outside the structure foundation wall, or exterior wall if construction is non-traditional, and the sewer main. The definition is the same whether the sewer lateral is located in the front, side or rear yard. That portion of damaged or blocked pipes not located as described herein is not eligible for assistance under this Program.

Only owner-occupied single-family units, defined as an attached or detached residential building containing not more than one kitchen wherein the occupants of the dwelling unit are living and functioning together as a single housekeeping unit, are eligible for the Program. Notwithstanding the foregoing, duplexes and triplexes in which one of the units is owner-occupied are eligible for the Program.

Applications must be submitted by the owner of the residential unit as shown on the County of Orange's latest tax assessment roll.

Applications meeting Program criteria and that have been approved by the General Manager, will be eligible to be reimbursed up to 50% of the approved cost, but in no event to exceed \$1,800. A property owner that has received reimbursement under the Program or a residence that has had a sewer lateral replaced through the Program shall not be eligible for the Program for five years from the date of receipt of the reimbursement.

2

863619.4

The term "replacement" of a sewer lateral may include repair or refurbishment of an existing lateral if, in the determination of District's General Manager, the repair or replacement will result in the sewer lateral having the life expectancy of a new sewer lateral. All pipe replacement material shall be PVC or such other material that the General Manager determines to be equal to or better than PVC in quality and durability. Replacement shall include a "clean-out" access to the sewer lateral near the connection of the sewer lateral to the residential unit.

District Directors and employees are not eligible to participate in the Program.

Application Process

Applications for financial assistance under this Program shall be submitted to the General Manager prior to the commencement of any replacement work on the subject sewer lateral. The application shall be on a form provided by the District and shall include the following information at a minimum and any additional information that the General Manager deems necessary for the proper implementation of the Program:

- 1) The property owner's full name;
- 2) The property owner's mailing address and telephone number;
- 3) The address of the property at which the work is to be done;
- 4) The scope of work;
- 5) A copy of at least two (2) written cost estimates (bids), including the names and contractors' license numbers of the bidding contractors.

The application shall include sufficient evidence, to the satisfaction of the General Manager, to establish that the lateral is defective and cannot be cleared to allow it to function properly. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a CCTV inspection, dye test, plumber's verification and sketches. The General Manager may require the homeowner to submit additional documentation, as needed.

If the property is experiencing a blockage of the sewer lateral, prior to filing an

application, the owner must first contact a licensed plumber to have the line cabled. If cabling does not result in clearing the line, the owner should have a CCTV inspection performed and a sketch prepared showing the approximate location of the defect. After the CCTV inspection and sketch is completed, the homeowner should contact the District between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday, to secure an application and instructions for participating in the Program. The owner should submit a completed application, a copy of the paid cabling bill, the sewer lateral CCTV inspection video, sketch and any other required information to the District.

The contractor who is performing the work shall be licensed to perform the work and shall obtain an Encroachment Permit from the appropriate city or county Public Works Department for all work performed in the public right-of-way. If the conditions placed on the Encroachment Permit alter the original cost estimates, those revised costs shall be

3

863619.4

incorporated into the original application for approval prior to the commencement of work.

Prior to commencement of any work for which reimbursement is sought, the applicant must have received the General Manager's written approval for the reimbursement. Any work commenced prior to receipt of the General Manager's written approval will not be eligible for reimbursement. The applicant shall notify the General Manager in writing of any unexpected conditions which may cause additional costs to be incurred during construction. In his discretion the General Manager may review and/or approve the additional costs if such request for reimbursement is submitted prior to those additional costs being incurred.

Reimbursement requests shall be made to the General Manager and shall include the following:

- 6) A copy of the licensed contractor's invoice, which invoice shall separately state the cost of work performed on that portion of the lateral eligible for reimbursement;
- 2) A copy of the invoice evidencing it has been paid in full or any such other evidence required by the General Manager that the invoice has been paid;
- 3) A copy of the approved Encroachment Permit;
- 4) A release of any mechanics liens placed on the property that is related to the work;
- 5) A completed W-9 form; and
- 6) Any additional information the General Manager believes is necessary to process the request.

Once all documents have been received and approved by the General Manager, the General Manager shall be authorized to make payment to the applicant in accordance this Program and to the extent funds are still available in the applicable budget year. The District will endeavor to make payment within 30 days of receipt of all necessary documents.

Other

The District will not make payments to the contractor or otherwise be liable for such payments. Payments made to the contractor are the sole responsibility of the homeowner and homeowner shall only be entitled to reimbursement for payments made to the contractor. The District will not make any recommendations or referrals for

POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO REPLACE SEWER LATERALS AT SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES

Overview

The Midway City Sanitary District ("District") is obligated by State law to prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows ("SSOs"), which may in some cases result in sewage reaching the storm water system and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. Sewer laterals are privately owned and maintained to the point of connection with District sewer mains. Poorly maintained sewer laterals can cause SSOs, as well as backups in residential toilets, which can cause damage to property. The District is concerned about the inflow and infiltration into the public sewer system from privately owned and maintained sewer laterals. The District's Board of Directors ("Board") finds that in furtherance of the District's mission, it is in the best interest of its sewer system ratepayers to participate in the needed upgrades of deficient sewer laterals, to provide an incentive to residential homeowners to remedy such deficiencies and to establish a program for financial assistance to replace sewer laterals ("Program").

The Program shall operate to the extent that the Board allocates monies for the Program annually within the budget. Once allocated monies have been exhausted, the Program is finished for that budget year.

Eligibility Criteria

A sewer lateral that is eligible for this Program is that portion of the lateral pipe that carries household wastewater discharged from the residential unit to the District sewer main and which lies between a point just outside the structure foundation wall, or exterior wall if construction is non-traditional, and the sewer main. The definition is the same whether the sewer lateral is located in the front, side or rear yard. That portion of damaged or blocked pipes not located as described herein is not eligible for assistance under this Program.

Only owner-occupied single-family units, defined as an attached or detached residential building containing not more than one kitchen wherein the occupants of the dwelling unit are living and functioning together as a single housekeeping unit, are eligible for the Program. Notwithstanding the foregoing, duplexes and triplexes in which one of the units is owner-occupied are eligible for the Program.

Applications must be submitted by the owner of the residential unit as shown on the County of Orange's latest tax assessment roll.

Applications meeting Program criteria and that have been approved by the General Manager, will be eligible to be reimbursed up to 50% of the approved cost, but in no event to exceed \$1,800. A property owner that has received reimbursement under the Program or a residence that has had a sewer lateral replaced through the Program shall not be eligible for the Program for five years from the date of receipt of the reimbursement.

The term "replacement" of a sewer lateral may include repair or refurbishment of an existing lateral if, in the determination of District's General Manager, the repair or replacement will result in the sewer lateral having the life expectancy of a new sewer lateral. All pipe replacement material shall be PVC or such other material that the General Manager determines to be equal to or better than PVC in quality and durability. Replacement shall include a "clean-out" access to the sewer lateral near the connection of the sewer lateral to the residential unit.

District Directors and employees are not eligible to participate in the Program.

Application Process

Applications for financial assistance under this Program shall be submitted to the General Manager prior to the commencement of any replacement work on the subject sewer lateral. The application shall be on a form provided by the District and shall include the following information at a minimum and any additional information that the General Manager deems necessary for the proper implementation of the Program:

- 1) The property owner's full name;
- 2) The property owner's mailing address and telephone number;
- 3) The address of the property at which the work is to be done;
- 4) The scope of work;
- 5) A copy of at least two (2) written cost estimates (bids), including the names and contractors' license numbers of the bidding contractors.

The application shall include sufficient evidence, to the satisfaction of the General Manager, to establish that the lateral is defective and cannot be cleared to allow it to function properly. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a CCTV inspection, dye test, plumber's verification and sketches. The General Manager may require the homeowner to submit additional documentation, as needed.

If the property is experiencing a blockage of the sewer lateral, prior to filing an application, the owner must first contact a licensed plumber to have the line cabled. If cabling does not result in clearing the line, the owner should have a CCTV inspection performed and a sketch prepared showing the approximate location of the defect. After the CCTV inspection and sketch is completed, the homeowner should contact the District between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday, to secure an application and instructions for participating in the Program. The owner should submit a completed application, a copy of the paid cabling bill, the sewer lateral CCTV inspection video, sketch and any other required information to the District.

The contractor who is performing the work shall be licensed to perform the work and shall obtain an Encroachment Permit from the appropriate city or county Public Works Department for all work performed in the public right-of-way. If the conditions placed on the Encroachment Permit alter the original cost estimates, those revised costs shall be

incorporated into the original application for approval prior to the commencement of work.

Prior to commencement of any work for which reimbursement is sought, the applicant must have received the General Manager's written approval for the reimbursement. Any work commenced prior to receipt of the General Manager's written approval will not be eligible for reimbursement. The applicant shall notify the General Manager in writing of any unexpected conditions which may cause additional costs to be incurred during construction. In his discretion the General Manager may review and/or approve the additional costs if such request for reimbursement is submitted prior to those additional costs being incurred.

Reimbursement requests shall be made to the General Manager and shall include the following:

- 1) A copy of the licensed contractor's invoice, which invoice shall separately state the cost of work performed on that portion of the lateral eligible for reimbursement;
- 2) A copy of the invoice evidencing it has been paid in full or any such other evidence required by the General Manager that the invoice has been paid;
- 3) A copy of the approved Encroachment Permit;
- 4) A release of any mechanics liens placed on the property that is related to the work;
- 5) A completed W-9 form; and
- 6) Any additional information the General Manager believes is necessary to process the request.

Once all documents have been received and approved by the General Manager, the General Manager shall be authorized to make payment to the applicant in accordance this Program and to the extent funds are still available in the applicable budget year. The District will endeavor to make payment within 30 days of receipt of all necessary documents.

Other

The District will not make payments to the contractor or otherwise be liable for such payments. Payments made to the contractor are the sole responsibility of the homeowner and homeowner shall only be entitled to reimbursement for payments made to the contractor. The District will not make any recommendations or referrals for contractors or be a party, beneficiary or obligee under any contract as between the applicant and the contractor. The applicant shall be solely responsible for finding and retaining a contractor who is qualified to do the work.

The District reserves the absolute right and discretion to approve or deny any application and is under no obligation to budget for the Program or to expend any sums budgeted in any applicable fiscal year for the Program. The General Manager shall file

a written report with the Board by the first meeting in May of each year listing the properties and persons that received assistance under the Program and the amount of such assistance.

The homeowner is responsible for contacting their homeowner's insurance company to determine if any portion of or the entire sewer lateral replacement is covered by the home insurance policy. The homeowner is required to notify the District of any insurance proceeds received from the insurance company to pay any part of the sewer lateral replacement. All such proceeds shall be deducted from the District's approved reimbursement amount or if the District has already paid the homeowner, homeowner shall reimburse the District for any such payments already made to the extent of the receipt of insurance proceeds.

By participating in the cost of replacement of a privately owned sewer lateral, the applicant agrees that the District is not assuming any ownership or maintenance responsibilities for the lateral upgrades. The lateral continues to be the sole responsibility of the owner being served. The applicant also agrees that the District shall not be liable on any claim or other cause of action under this Program for any amount exceeding the amount that has received the prior written approval of the General Manager.

Reimbursement Parameters

Case A:

Single family home, duplex or triplex with one lateral and common ownership. Property owner may receive up to \$1,800. No plan check and inspection fees; no-fee sewer permit.

Case B:

Small-lot subdivision where each unit occupies its own legal lot. Allowed one application from the HOA with a maximum reimbursement for the entire subdivision of \$1,800. No plan check and inspection fees; no-fee sewer permit.

Case C:

New development is not eligible for the Program.

Case D:

Remodeled or expanded residence. Program applies. No plan check and inspection fees; sewer permit required. CCTV required if existing lateral being reused.

Case E:

Common ownership properties, such as condominium and townhome projects, are not eligible for the Program.



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Emergency Sewer Clean-Out Installation Agreement

I, _____, represent that I am the owner of real property located at _____, Newport Beach, CA (hereinafter "Property"). I have experienced a sewer backup or stoppage, on my Property. I have requested that City of Newport Beach ("City") investigate the cause of the sewer stoppage and determine whether the cause is located in the wastewater service lateral located on my Property or within the public right of way or public easement.

A. In signing this repayment agreement, I understand and agree to each of the following:

1. The City is only responsible to clear stoppages caused by circumstances occurring on public property or public easement, or where the stoppage is located within the wastewater services lateral on public property or public easement;
2. The City is not and will not be responsible for clearing any stoppage that is determined to be located on, and/or caused by circumstances occurring on the private property side of the wastewater service lateral, or by private trees on public property or in a public easement or right of way, or by private trees on any private property;
3. The City is not responsible and will not be responsible for maintenance of any portion of the wastewater service lateral that is located on private property,

B. In consideration of the City's agreement to investigate the cause of the stoppage and install a sewer lateral clean-out at the property line, I understand and agree to each of the following:

1. To fully reimburse the City for any and all costs and expenses incurred by the City for labor, materials, and equipment to investigate and install the clean-out at or near the property line if the stoppage is determined to be located on and/or caused by circumstances occurring on the private property side of the wastewater service lateral;
2. That it is my responsibility to make separate arrangements to clear any stoppage and to make and pay for any necessary repairs related to any stoppage located on and/or caused by circumstances occurring on the private property side of the wastewater lateral, including those cause by adjoining private property owners. I understand that the homeowner owns the point of connection and transition point of the sewer lateral.

C. In signing the repayment agreement, I understand and agree to the following:

1. To reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions on the itemized bill or invoice, the City for any and all costs and expenses incurred to investigate and install the sewer clean-out if the stoppage is determined to be on private property.
2. The reimbursement amount is estimated to be at least \$1,000 and may exceed \$3,000 based on the current fee schedule for labor, materials, and equipment.

Property Owner
(print name)

Property Owner
(signature)

Date

Wastewater Supervisor or designee
(print name)

Wastewater Supervisor or designee
(signature)

Date

Utilities Manager
(print name)

Utilities Manager
(signature)

Date

<i>Official Use Only</i>	
Quest #	<i>Attach the signed agreement to the above Quest and return original to Property Owner.</i>

Sewer Information

General Information

The City of Orange maintains over 1.6 million lineal feet or 308 miles of sewer pipeline. Provides information regarding sewer systems and sewer lateral connections. Maintenance includes annual cleaning of sewer lines and periodic videotaping to search for trouble spots. Keeping the sewer system clean helps limit potential sewage overflows that could threaten our health and water quality. For information about the City's sanitation rates, view the [Sanitation Rates \(PDF\)](#). For additional information about the City's most recent sewer rate study, view [Comprehensive Sanitation Rate Study \(PDF\)](#).

Sewer Lateral Connections

A sewer line from a private property is connected to the public sewer main on the street by means of a sewer lateral. Each property is connected to the sewer main with a separate sewer lateral. The sewer lateral is the section of the sewer pipe line running roughly perpendicular from the private property to the sewer main on the street. The construction and maintenance of the sewer lateral is the responsibility of the private property owner.

New Connection

Construction of a new sewer connection requires a Plumbing Permit from the Building Department and an Encroachment Permit from the Public Works Department.

The fees include:

- City Sewer Connection Fee
- County Sanitation Fee
- Assessment District Fee
- Plumbing Permit Fee
- Encroachment Permit Fee

The property owner is advised to contact Public Works Department and Building Department for further information to help determine the feasibility of the project. For additional information view the [New Sewer Connection \(PDF\)](#).

Repair of Existing Sewer Lateral

A Plumbing Permit and an Encroachment Permit are required for repair of a sewer lateral between the property line and the sewer main in the street. This includes works in the sidewalk area, in the parkway area, and on the street pavement. A licensed contractor should be hired to perform the work. The contractor should apply for the permits on behalf of the property owner.

For Property Owners in County Unincorporated Areas

Property owners in County Unincorporated areas should contact their local sewer [Solid Waste](#)

connections. The City of Orange does not provide sewer service for properties outside of City limits.

Connection of Sewer Lateral to County Trunk Line

For certain streets, the sewer mains are components of Orange County Sanitation District trunk lines. The City of Orange does not have jurisdiction for these lines. Once the City's Public Works Department has determined that such a situation exists, the property owner will be further instructed to process additional applications with the Orange County Sanitation District office.

Contact Us

Building Division

Phone: (714) 744-7200

Fax: (714) 744-7245

Public Works

Phone: (714) 744-5525

Fax: (714) 744-5573

[Email](#)

Emergency After Hours Contact

To report problems with water, sewers, street lights, or traffic signals, please call (714) 538-1961.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

Alternating Fridays

7:30 am - 5:30 pm

[View Main Calendar](#)

Physical Address

300 E. Chapman Ave.

P.O. Box 449

Orange, CA 92866



Orange County Sanitation District

Mission –
We protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.

10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA
92708-7018

for more information
call (714) 962-2411
or visit our web site
www.ocsd.com

Answers *to questions about...*

Private Sewer Laterals in Tustin and Other Nearby Unincorporated Areas*

Q. Who is the Orange County Sanitation District?

A. The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is responsible for safely collecting, treating, and disposing of wastewater generated by more than 2.5 million people living and working in Orange County. OCSD operates the third largest wastewater system on the West Coast, consisting of over 580 miles of sewers and two regional wastewater treatment plants in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach.

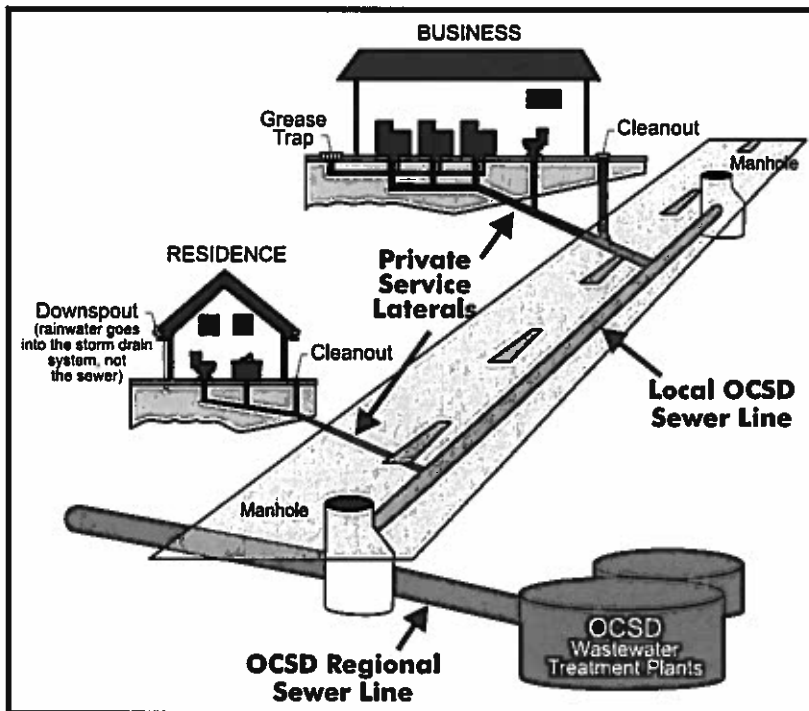
Q. What exactly is a "sewer lateral?"

A. A sewer lateral is the sewer pipe that connects a business or house plumbing system to the public sanitary sewer main in the street (see graphic). Sewer lateral pipes are permitted to carry only sanitary sewage and/or treated industrial waste. A lateral is considered to be "private" since property lines extend to the center of every public or private street.

Q. Who is responsible for maintaining and repairing private laterals?

A. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair or replacement of their lateral to the point where the lateral connects to the public sewer in the street. OCSD is responsible for the operation

and the maintenance of local sewers in the City of Tustin and in unincorporated areas of Orange County and the regional sewer system. If immediate action is necessary to preserve or protect the public health, safety, and/or the environment, OCSD may be ordered to assist by the Orange County Health Care Agency and take corrective action. The property owner may be responsible for costs incurred by OCSD.



Q. What should I do if I have

problems with my sewer lateral or onsite pumping facility?

A. Call a licensed plumber to determine the problem if you do not have the equipment or experience to do this job yourself. Look for "Plumbing Contractors" in the "Yellow Pages" or through an online world wide web search engine. You may also contact the Contractors State License Board at (800) 321-CSLB (2752) or <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/> for licensed plumbing contractors in and around Orange County.

* This fact sheet is for the following OCSD service areas: North Tustin, El Modena, Lemon Heights, Cowan Heights and Red Hill; excluding Orange Park Acres and sewers in Tustin that are owned and operated by the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD).

...continued on other side

Q. What is a clean out, and where is mine located?

A. A clean out is a point of access into the sewer lateral that is used to insert Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) cameras or cleaning tools to clear the line of an obstruction or blockage. It is usually 4-inch in diameter and has a tight-fitting metal or plastic cap over it. Generally, a clean out is located either inside or outside of a house/building, or near the inside edge of the sidewalk, near the property line, or at the curb just inside of the right-of-way line. Clean outs are sometimes mistakenly buried under landscaping, concrete, or garden walls. When this happens, the clean out should be located and exposed, and made accessible at the surface.

A qualified licensed plumber can determine if you have a clean out, where it is located and the condition of your lateral. The best way to assess the condition of a lateral is by CCTV inspection.

Q. What causes sewer laterals to clog or overflow?

A. Sewer laterals can become clogged and overflow for a variety of reasons:

- Tree and plant roots can enter the sewer line through cracks or offset joints in the pipe
- Cracked or broken pipes
- Disposal of items into the sink and/or toilet that clog the drain such as:
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Disposable towelettes and handy-wipes
 - Baby wipes and disposable or cloth diapers
 - Foods not meant for the garbage disposal such as chicken bones, corn cobs, vegetable peelings, coffee grounds and egg shells
 - Rags
 - Fats, oil and cooking grease
 - Toilet cleaning scrubbers
 - Condoms
 - Plastic items
 - Paper towels
 - Dental floss

More than 50% of the lateral problems we hear about in this specific area involve tree roots. The other problems are caused by people dumping grease or other prohibited substances down the drain. All food scraps and non-dissolvable organic items should be put in a trash container or compost bin instead of down the drain. Cooking oil and food grease should be carefully transferred into a heat-resistant container and allowed to cool and solidify before being disposed in the trash. Washing grease down the drain with hot water does not prevent it from solidifying later as it cools. This solid grease builds up over time and can cause blockages in plumbing and sewer systems.

Q. How often should I clean my sewer lateral?

A. Sewer laterals and facility drains should be cleaned regularly to avoid costly repairs as well as health, safety and environmental hazards from a sewer overflow. How often you clean your lateral depends on the age of your house and lateral, the growth of tree and plant roots near your lateral, and the types of items that you put down the drain. A good rule of thumb is have a plumber check your lateral every two to five years. Check more often if you experience a sewage-like odor or frequent clogged or slow drains. Don't wait until you have a blockage before you clean your lateral!

Q. How do I know if my lateral needs repair or replacement?

A. Some signs that sewer laterals need repair or replacement include frequent clogged or slow running drains, and an odor of sewage. Houses and businesses with mature trees and bushes may need to check and repair their laterals more often since roots may invade and damage the pipe. The best way to check the structural condition of a lateral is by CCTV examination.

Q. Do I need a permit to do private lateral replacements, repairs or new installation work within the public right-of-way?

A. If you live in the unincorporated area of Orange County or the City of Tustin and you are planning to install, repair or replace the existing lateral, and it is located in the public right-of-way, you must obtain an encroachment permit from the County of Orange Resources and Development Management Department (714) 834-2626 or the City of Tustin Building Department (714) 573-3131. You will also need to obtain a permit from the OCSD Planning and Design Engineering Division (714) 593-7318.

...continued on next page

Q. How far away from my sewer lateral should I plant trees and bushes so that roots don't damage my lateral?

A. The distance you should plant trees and shrubs varies depending on the type of plant and the surrounding soil conditions. Check with your local nursery or a professional arborist if you have any questions about a particular tree or plant. It is never wise to plant trees or shrubs directly above or adjacent to your or your neighbor's sewer lateral.

Q. Where can I go to learn more about how sewers are regulated in California?

A. You can go to the State Water Resources Control Board website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sso/index.html> to learn more about how sewer systems are regulated in California. You can also contact them at: State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812, (916) 341-5250.

Q. What do I do if I belong to a Homeowners Association and my sewer is clogged?

A. Your sewers may all be private up to the connection point to the local public sewer. Consult your home-owner's association records and site installation drawings to find out what sewers are public and what sewers are private. Your association may have specific guidelines for you to follow in case your sewer is clogged.

Q. What specific items does the Uniform Plumbing Code prohibit from being discharged into the sewer?

A. The following items are prohibited: ashes, cinders, solids, rags, flammable, poisonous or explosive liquids or gases, oils, grease, and any other thing that could cause damage to the public sewer, private sewer, or private disposal system. It is also illegal to connect any rain gutter down spout, or surface or subsurface water drain to the sanitary sewer system.