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



APN: #####-###-###  
 NAME  
 STREET  
 CITY, STATE ZIP

## Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District



## ANNUAL REPORT



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

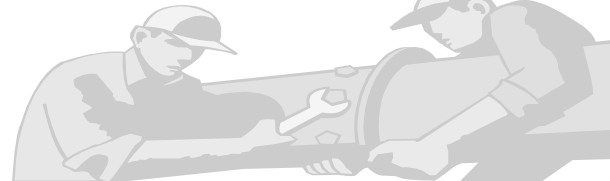
Dear Customer:

In the interest of providing improved customer service, and to let you know how your monies are being spent, we are pleased to provide our first Annual Report. This report describes our District's facilities and summarizes work accomplished by our staff during the past year.

We are also providing additional information on how a sewer system works, typical sanitary sewer problems, and tips on how you can help prevent them. These are just a few ways to make the sewer system operate efficiently. Our goal is to minimize maintenance costs, and to save you money. We hope you find this information useful.

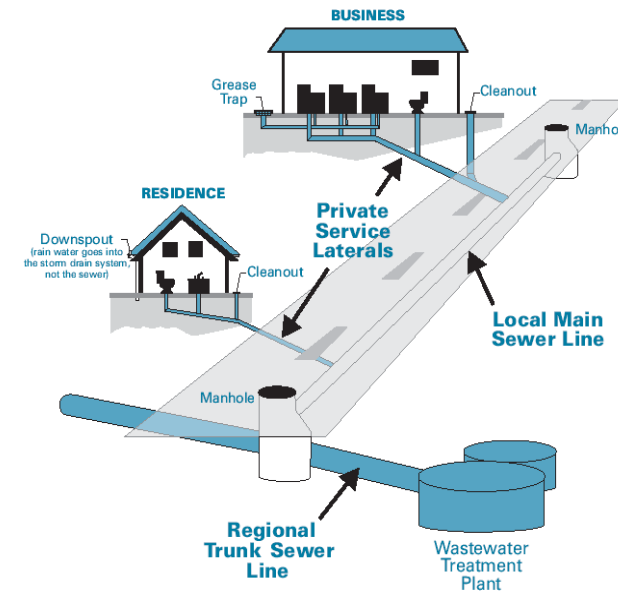
The information in this newsletter can be provided in an alternate format for people with disabilities. To request these accommodations, please contact the Sewer Maintenance - Direct Assessments Unit at (626) 300-3399 Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. through 5:30 p.m.

Si no entiende esta noticia ó si necesita mas información, favor de llamar a este numero (626) 300-3345.



| Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District Facilities | Length/Number |
|--|---------------|
| Sewer Lines  | 5,100 miles   |
| Manhole Structures                                 | 112,000       |
| Sewage Pump Stations                               | 153           |
| Wastewater Treatment Plants                        | 4             |
| Cities Served by the District                      | 42            |
| Sewer Maintenance Yards                            | 4             |

| Description of Work/Event                               | Last Year's Work Accomplishment |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Total length of sewer lines cleaned                     | 7,314,456 ft/ 1385 miles        |
| Total number of manhole inspections                     | 191,986                         |
| Total number of manholes adjusted to street level       | 693                             |
| Total service requests responses                        | 1,442                           |
| Total length of sewer lines inspected by televising     | 123,459 ft                      |
| Total length of sewer lines treated for roots           | 219,272 ft                      |
| Total number of pump station inspections                | 14,280                          |
| Total number of major pump station repairs              | 702                             |
| Total number of parcels annexed to the District         | 30                              |
| Total length of sewer lines rehabilitated/reconstructed | 47,800 ft                       |
| Total number of sewer connections                       | 199                             |
| Total number of sewer overflows/ flood outs             | 106                             |



### How a Sewer System Works

A typical sanitary sewer system consists of a network of pipes which collects and transports wastewater from homes and businesses to a **wastewater treatment plant**.

A property owner's sewer pipes are called **private service laterals** or house laterals which connect to large **local main sewer lines** and **regional trunk sewer lines**.

**Private service laterals** are the responsibility of the property owner and must be maintained by the property owner.

Operation and maintenance of **local main sewer lines** are the responsibility of the Sewer Maintenance Districts of the Department of Public Works. Operation and maintenance of the **regional trunk sewer lines** is the responsibility of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works, such as the County Sanitation Districts.



# All You Need to Know About Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) occur when wastewater is discharged from a sewer system through a manhole, cleanout, or broken pipe. SSO can cause health hazards, damage to homes and businesses, and threaten the environment, local waterways, and beaches.

## Common Causes of SSO

Experience has shown that grease and tree roots are the most common cause of SSO. Grease sticks to the sewer pipe and restricts the flow of wastewater. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains, food establishments, and from poorly maintained commercial grease traps and interceptors.

Structural problems such as broken/cracked pipes, or offset pipe joints, allow roots to grow into the mainline sewer. Roots also enter through private service laterals. Once inside, the roots collect debris and restrict the flow of wastewater.

Infiltration and inflow impacts pipe capacity, and is caused when groundwater or rainwater enters the sewer system through pipe defects and illegal connections.

## What to Look For

SSO can be very noticeable gushing water from a manhole or a slow leak that may take time to be noticed. Do not dismiss unaccounted-for wet areas.

Look for:

- Drain backups inside the building.
- Wet ground and water leaking around manhole lids on to the street.
- Leaking water from cleanouts or outside drains.
- Unusual odorous wet areas: sidewalks, external walls, ground/landscape around a building.



# Overflow Costs....



## To Your Home or Business:

**Vermin Infestation:** As sewer pipes back up, wastewater and food particles that accumulate can attract insects and other vermin that may create potential health hazards.

**Property Damage** can result from overflows, leading to expensive cleanup and plumbing repairs.

**Health Code Violations or Closures** can greatly impact your business operations.

## To Los Angeles County and Local Cities:

**Overflows** can result in fines from regulatory agencies and lead to increases in annual sewer service charges. Increased sewer blockages and overflows lead to excessive and costly maintenance!

## To The Environment:

**Wastewater** can overflow onto streets, and enter the storm drain system. The wastewater then flows to our local beaches, creating a health risk for swimmers and marine life — and causing beach closures.

## CAUTION!

Keep people and pets away from the affected area. Untreated wastewater has high levels of disease-causing viruses and bacteria. Call your local health care agency listed for more information.

SSO spills can cause long-term damage to the environment and significant maintenance cost increases. Help prevent them!



## Sewer Overflow



**If You See a Sewage Overflow,  
Notify The Department of Public Works  
1-800-675-HELP (4357)  
IMMEDIATELY!**



## Helpful Tips

### Cut The Fat In Our Sewers

Let's work together to make our Sewer System FAT-FREE. We can start by getting rid of Fat, Oil, and Grease (FOG) to minimize stoppages and reduce costs.

### Homeowners Should Dispose of Grease Properly:

- Do not pour grease down the drains or garbage disposals.
- Pour leftover grease into grease cans and scrape food from plates, pans, etc. into the trash bins.
- Do not put food into the toilet.

**Restaurants and Large Buildings**, such as apartment complexes and commercial establishments, should have grease traps or interceptors to keep grease out of sewer pipes.

To work correctly, a grease trap or interceptor must be:

- Sized correctly and designed to handle the expected amount of grease.
- Installed properly per local codes.
- Maintained properly, with regular cleaning and service.

### Keep Your Service Lateral Clean

When was the last time you had your service lateral cleaned? The service lateral is the pipe that connects your household plumbing to the local sewer line in the street. Like the household plumbing, it belongs to you and it is your responsibility to maintain it properly! Have your plumber check it periodically for tree roots and debris.

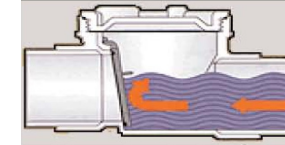
Roots can cause extensive damage. They start out small by getting into small cracks in the pipe or through joints; as the tree or shrub continues to grow, so does the root. After time, this causes your service lateral to break, allowing debris to hang up in the line, causing a backup.



Roots invading service lateral

## Prevent Sewer Backups

To prevent future sewer backups, your property may require a backwater valve. Check to see if you have one, and if so, make sure it works.



Properly installed backwater valve prevents sewage from entering your home.



Properly installed backwater valve allows household waste waters to flow to the sewers.

Contact your local plumber for further information.

## Cities/County Areas Served by Sewer Maintenance Districts

|                             |                      |                       |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Unincorporated County Areas | Glendora             | Palos Verdes Estates  |
| Marina Del Rey.....         | Hawaiian Gardens     | Paramount             |
| Agoura Hills                | Hidden Hills         | Pico Rivera           |
| Artesia                     | Industry             | Rancho Palos Verdes   |
| Baldwin Park                | Inwindale            | Rolling Hills         |
| Bellflower                  | La Canada-Flintridge | Rolling Hills Estates |
| Bell Gardens                | La Habra Heights     | Rosemead              |
| Bradbury                    | Lakewood             | San Dimas             |
| Calabasas                   | La Mirada            | Santa Clarita         |
| Carson                      | Lancaster            | Santa Fe Springs      |
| Commerce                    | La Puente            | South El Monte        |
| Cudahy                      | Lawndale             | Temple City           |
| Diamond Bar                 | Lomita               | Walnut                |
| Duarte                      | Malibu               | Westlake Village      |
|                             | Palmdale             | West Hollywood        |

**The State Water Resources Control Board may soon adopt new sanitary sewer operations regulations, with the intent of reducing sewer overflows and associated health risks. These regulations may prove to be costly and may result in sewer service charge rate increases. To learn more about these regulations, please call (916) 341-5276 or visit the Regional Board website [www.swrcb.ca.gov/sso/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/sso/)**

The Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District's Annual Report is published by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works - Sewer Maintenance Branch. If you have any questions or concerns regarding sewer service charges, or this Report, please contact the Operations Engineering Section at (626) 300-3399 Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. through 5:30 p.m.