

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or comments regarding this Annual Report:

Call (626) 300-3399

Visit our website at:  
[www.dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/smd/smd)

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Please send all written inquiries to:

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



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# MARINA SMD

"WE PROVIDE SEWER MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN A HIGHLY EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND RESPONSIVE MANNER."

9th Edition | 2014

## EFFICIENT. EFFECTIVE. RESPONSIVE.

The Marina Sewer Maintenance District (District), managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Sewer Maintenance Division, provides sewage collection services for over 500,000 parcel owners in the unincorporated County and 37 member cities.

### SERVICES

Our goal is to provide all members of the District a cost effective and proactive maintenance and emergency response program. This includes such work as manhole inspections, sewer line cleaning, response to customer concerns 24-hours a day, sewer line rehabilitation and replacement, sanitary sewer overflow reporting, assistance to member cities with required sewer audits, and preparation of sewer management plans. We are also active in providing risk management options on civil liabilities.

The District's highly trained and experienced employees are dedicated to ensure that the wastewater generated from your homes, businesses, and recreational facilities is safely and efficiently conveyed for treatment and safe disposal.

### REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The District collects and administers funds for the ongoing health of the sewer infrastructure, including repairs to the sewer collection system and pump stations. To prioritize our repair work, we have developed a Condition Assessment Program. This program follows a ten year cycle, which conducts Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection of the sanitary sewer lines utilizing a robotic camera to capture the condition of the sewer lines from the inside. We began CCTV work on those areas of the District with the oldest infrastructure, nearly 10 years ago. Each year we have dedicated a significant portion of our budget and resources to the Condition Assessment Program. Engineers review the collected CCTV videos and data and develop a comprehensive list of maintenance and repair projects, prioritized based on the urgency and type of repair or maintenance needed. All of this work is being administered, programmed, and completed as part of the annual sewer service charge.

To provide our customers with sewer maintenance services that protect the public and environment in a highly efficient, effective, and responsive manner.



**Need Help? Call 1-800-675-HELP (4357)**

Are you experiencing a sewer backup or overflow? Call us and we will let you know whether it is our line or yours that is causing the sewer backup or overflow.

## MARINA MAINTENANCE DISTRICT FACILITIES and Major Districtwide Accomplishments

July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013

Sewer Lines	12 miles
Manhole Structures	207
Sewage Pump Stations	1
Sewage Flow to City of Los Angeles Facilities	1.33 mgd*
*mgd = million gallons per day	
City of Los Angeles' Annual Sewage Disposal Charges	\$679,000

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following items were some of the major District wide accomplishments during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013).

- 25 miles of sewer lines cleared
- 414 manhole structures inspected
- 6 responses to service requests
- 142 pump station inspections
- 14 major pump station repairs
- 0 overflows and/or floodouts

## NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN

Do not flush unused, unwanted, and expired medications down the toilet or put them in drains.

Take your unused medications to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center or event or put your unused medications in a sturdy, securely sealed container, then in a trash can where children and animals cannot reach them.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT THE NO DRUGS DOWN THE  
DRAINS SITE:**

[www.dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/nodrugs](http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/nodrugs)  
Call: 1 (888) CLEAN-LA

## SEWER SAFE TREES?

As a homeowner, you are responsible to maintain the house lateral from the house connection, to where it joins the mainline sewer in the street.

If there are trees in your yard or if you are planning on planting trees, here are some tips to help minimize damage to your house lateral and the mainline sewer pipes from root intrusions.

- Choose slow growing trees or bushes
- Choose species with less aggressive root systems
- Do not plant trees within sewer easements
- Plant trees/bushes a minimum of 10 feet from sewer lines and house laterals
- Replace trees that are older than eight to ten years

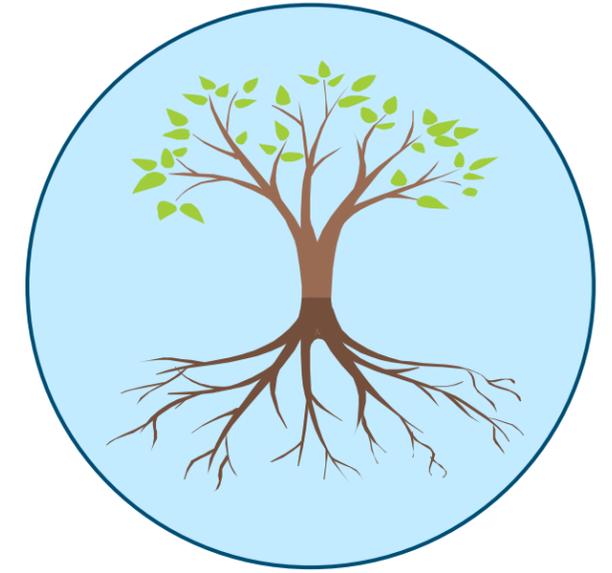
If you have plants or trees near your sewer line, we recommend having your local plumber televise your sewer line periodically. Roots will eventually gravitate towards damaged areas of the sewer line. Cracked or broken pipelines are an optimal environment for tree root growth since it provides water, nutrients, and oxygen to the roots. Root growth can cause blockages and backups of sewage into your home or property.

Televising your house sewer lateral can also catch other problems like debris blockage, grease buildup, low spots, and broken or cracked pipes. This video can help you and your plumber determine the proper

maintenance and repair needed for your lateral.

Remember, routine maintenance is cheaper than emergency plumbing calls and replacement of house laterals. Contact your local licensed plumber for an appointment.

There are no such things as sewer safe trees. Anything with roots can eventually get into a cracked or defective pipe.



## TOILET PAPER TEST

**Did you know that not all toilet papers are made equally?**

When looking for a sewer safe toilet paper, the paper should break apart immediately once it is flushed.

To find out whether or not you are using the right toilet paper to keep your sewer line clean and clear, do the toilet paper test.

**The package says it is flushable**

There are claims of many flushable products out in the market, such as a variety of cleansing wipes that do not break down in the sewer system once

flushed. Before flushing those down the toilet, do the test to see if it breaks down.

Just because the product goes down the drain does not mean it goes away! Items that do not break down quickly when flushed down the toilet can build up in the sewer line causing blockages and backups. Being proactive and aware will help keep your sewer lateral and the main sewer line clogged free. Take time to take the test.

## TAKE THE TOILET PAPER TEST

**To test your toilet paper:** Place a handful of paper in the toilet or a container with water and stir it up rapidly. It should break up into small pieces in a short period of time. If it does, it passes the test. If the toilet paper does not pass the test, try another brand.

## BACKFLOW VALVE

### Who needs one?

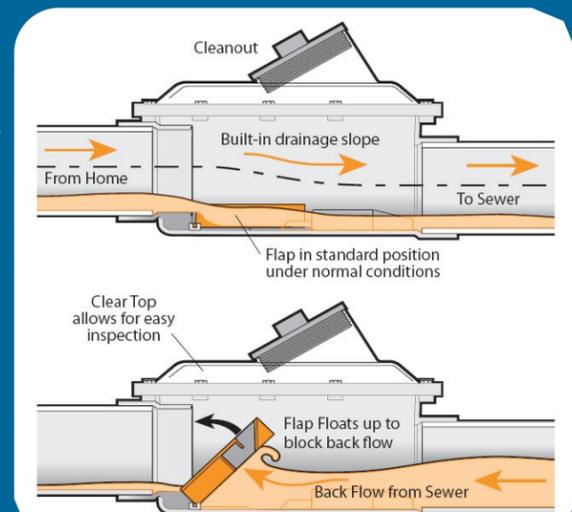
Your house lateral may need a backflow valve if there are any plumbing fixtures lower than the street in front of your house or if the street outside your house goes steeply uphill. If your property already has a backwater valve, it needs to be checked and maintained regularly. If a sewer overflow into your property were to occur because the backwater valve has not been properly installed or maintained, CSMD will not be responsible for any damage that may result.

### Where to find mine?

Backflow valves are installed at the exit point of the sewer lines from the home, typically in the sewer lateral on the outside of the home or building. They are typically installed in an access box to make maintenance easy. Backflow valves require routine maintenance in order to be effective. If you are unsure if you have one or would like to have a backflow valve installed, contact your local licensed plumber.

### What do they do?

Backflow valves prevent sewage from the mainline sewer from entering your home. If sewage enters your lateral from the mainline and reaches the valve, a flap floats up and blocks the flow of sewage.



# Fight **F.O.G.**

Keep **FATS**, **OILS**, and **GREASE** out of **YOUR** drain!

## WHAT IS F.O.G.?

F.O.G. stands for **Fats, Oils, and Grease** and are found in common food and food ingredients, such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, mayonnaise, gravy, sauces, and food scraps.

If poured down the drain or into your garbage disposal, F.O.G. will build up over time by sticking to your side sewer. This could eventually cause an expensive sewer backup into your home .

1



Pour cooled fats, oils, and grease into a covered, disposable container and throw it into your garbage.

2



Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps from your plates, pots, and pans into the trash or compost.

3



Soak up remaining fats, oils, and grease with a paper towel and dispose in your trash.

Avoid using your garbage disposal.  
Use sink strainers to catch any remaining food waste while washing dishes.

**COOL IT, CAN IT, AND TRASH IT!**

# Fight **F.O.G.**

*Mantenga fuera de las alcantarillas las grasas y los aceites!*

## ¿QUÉ ES F.O.G.?

F.O.G. representa **GRASA Y ACEITES** y se encuentran en alimentos comunes e ingredientes como: la carne, el pescado, la mantequilla, el aceite de cocina, la mayonesa, la salsa, y las sobras de alimentos.

Las **GRASA Y ACEITES** se acumulan en las alcantarillas y eventualmente pueden causar costosas reparaciones.

1



Coloque las grasas y los aceites fríos en un recipiente desechable que tenga tapadera y arrójelo a la basura.

2



Antes de lavar los platos, arroje los residuos de alimentos, grasas, y aceites en la basura o utilícelos como fertilizantes.

3



Absorba las grasas y los aceites restantes con servilletas de papel y arrójelas a la basura.

Evite usar el triturador de basura. Utilice un colador en el fregadero para recoger los residuos de alimentos restantes mientras lava los platos.

**ENFRÍELO, ENLÁTELO, TÍRELO !**