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COVINA, CA 91722

# Annual Sewer Maintenance Report 2013



CITY OF COVINA  
125 E. COLLEGE STREET  
COVINA, CA 91723



## STREET & SEWER MAINTENANCE DIVISION

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Streets and Sewers Division is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy city by providing accessible streets; quality maintenance of the city's roadway infrastructure; efficient sanitary sewer maintenance; along with right-of-way litter and abandoned item removal.

### SEWER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Sewer Maintenance Section is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 121 miles of public sanitary sewer and one sewer lift station. Routine cleaning and manhole inspections are completed each business day by dedicated sewer maintenance staff. Sewer staff along with other Public Works Division staff also remain on-call 24 hours a day for any sewer related emergency.

### WATER DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

California State Water Resources Control Board Order 2006-003 set forth Statewide Water Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Sanitary Sewer Systems. The City of Covina must comply with these State regulations to monitor industrial and commercial discharges that may cause sanitary sewer overflows and degrade receiving waters including channels, rivers, and beaches. Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) are one of the leading causes of sanitary sewer overflows, which occur when the sewer becomes clogged and sewage discharges into the street. Sanitary sewer overflows may result in violations of water quality standards, pose a threat to the public health, adversely affect aquatic life and impair the public recreational use and enjoyment of surface waters.

### CHALLENGES

Here are some of the major challenges that are facing the Sewer Maintenance Division: The Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for collection sewer systems; new State requirements on reporting the District's sewer infrastructure; implementation of industrial waste and fats, oils and greases (FOG) pre-treatment facilities as required by state regulations; replacement of aging infrastructure; 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.

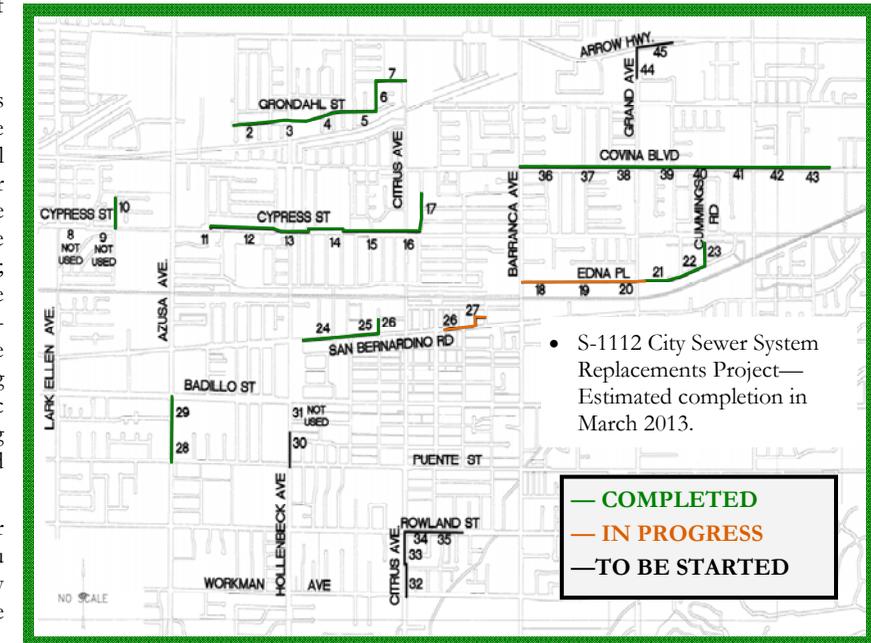
## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

Sewer Maintenance District Facilities	Length/Number
Sewer Lines	121 miles
Manhole Structures	2,852
Sewage Pump Stations	1

Description of Work/Event	Last Year's Work Accomplishment
Total length of sewer lines cleaned	795,413 linear feet
Total number of manhole structure inspections	1,476
Hot-spot locations cleaned	396
Sewer overflow responses	0
Manholes treated for vermin infestation	342
Manholes treated for rodent infestation	73
Routine pump station checks	365

### SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

It may seem obvious that your annual sewer assessment charge makes these projects possible. However, the fact is that we bonded to be able to perform a City-wide sewer upgrade project to update our aging infrastructure, estimated at \$12 million. The main component of that project was designed in 2011 and awarded in February of 2012. This project is projected to be completed in March of this year, 2013.



## CITY-WIDE SEWER UPGRADE LOCATIONS

### Completed:

- Homerest – Benwood to Cypress
- Grondahl – Hollenbeck to Edenfield
- Edenfield – Grondahl to Devanah
- Devanah – Edenfield to Citrus
- Cypress – Conwell to Park
- Park – Cypress to northerly end north of Benwood
- San Bernardino – Third to Cedar
- Covina – Barranca to Darfield
- Cummings – Cypress to Edna
- Azusa – Badillo to Puente

### In Progress:

- Hollenbeck – Center to Puente
- Third – Geneva to San Bernardino
- San Bernardino – east of Second to Curtis
- Edna – Cummings to Barranca

### To be Started in 2013:

- Rowland – Citrus to Eremland
- Citrus – Rowland to Workman
- Arrow – 850 feet east of Grand to Grand
- Grand – Arrow to Calora
- Edna – Cummings to Barranca

## OTHER PUBLIC SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AND PROJECTS...

After going through the design process last year, two separate public sewer projects are now underway and are scheduled to be completed early this year.

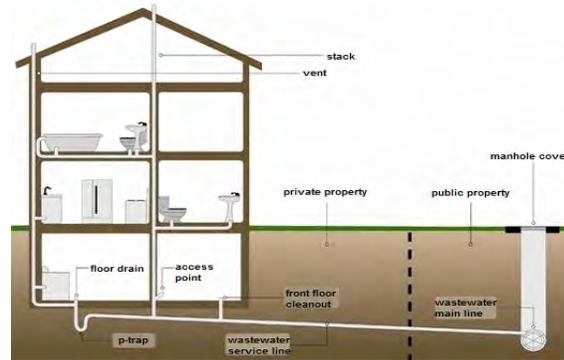
- S-1202 Sewer Main Replacement at Grand Avenue, Ruddock Street, and Ivescrest Avenue– Construction commenced in December 2012
- S-1206 Sewer Main Replacement at Vincent Avenue, Sewer Installation at Charter Drive– Construction commencing January 2013

For more information regarding City Sewer Projects please visit the Engineering Section on our City website at [www.covinaca.gov](http://www.covinaca.gov).



## 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 located in the streets or easements are owned by the City of Covina, and we are responsible for the maintenance of these mainline sewers. The laterals which extend from your home or business to the mainline are entirely owned by you, the property owner, and you are responsible for their maintenance; including the portion within the City's road right of ways such as under the street and sidewalk.



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-backups can cause enormous and costly damages.

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.

## THINGS TO DO TO KEEP SEWER LINES CLEAN!

### 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 less aggressive root systems 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 of your pipes and if any repairs are needed.

### IWP (Industrial Waste Permit) Program

The City of Covina Industrial Waste Permit program requires that any business that desires to discharge industrial wastewater to the City's sewer system obtain an IWP. Industrial wastewater is defined as any discharge that is not domestic. The IWP Program allows for the regulation of industrial wastewater dischargers to protect public health, the environment and the public sewer system. The program was implemented in April 2010 to meet State and Federal legal mandates. For additional information please visit the City of Covina, Public Works webpage at [www.covinaca.gov](http://www.covinaca.gov).

### MOST COMMON CAUSES OF OVERFLOWS: 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 towels 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.



## THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU FLUSH!

Many varieties of wipes and towels are labeled and marketed as DISPOSABLE, but should NOT be flushed down the toilet. Toilet tissue is designed to immediately start to break down when it hits the water. However, unlike toilet tissue, some items that are marketed as being disposable may take up to a couple of years to break down and can potentially cling to roots, the sides of your sewer lines, or just build up over time.



Examples of some items that do not break down immediately include:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Disinfecting Wipes | Baby Wipes     |
| Towelettes         | Mop Refills    |
| Paper Towels       | Facial Tissues |

Over-accumulation of these products will lead to clogged pipes and can eventually cause expensive and time-consuming repairs for homeowners. These products can also clog public sewer pipes and pump station equipment, leading to sewer backups and overflows.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SEE A SEWER OVERFLOW...

If you see a sewage overflow, sewer backup, or even a missing manhole cover please notify the Department of Public Works **IMMEDIATELY**. Please call (626) 385-5220 during our normal business hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. During off hours, please call the Police Department at (626) 384-5595.

If the problem is in the line between your home and the mainline sewer in the street, the repair is your responsibility and you need to hire a licensed plumber to correct the problem.

We highly recommend that you hire a professional to do the clean-up. If you decide to do the clean-up yourself, please remember to take some basic precautions because bacteria is present in the sewage and poses a health hazard.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**COVINA CITY YARD**  
534 N. Barranca Avenue  
Covina, CA 91723  
[WWW.COVINACA.GOV](http://WWW.COVINACA.GOV)

Streets & Sewers/  
Water Utility:  
(626) 384-5220



### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

For emergencies during non-business hours, please call the Covina Police Department at (626) 331-3391. The Dispatcher will contact an on-call staff member to assist you. For non-emergency service after hours, leave a message at (626) 384-5220 or (626) 384-5230.