COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject	Policy Number	Page
Cleaning and Repair of Sewer Laterals	F-16	1of 3

Purpose

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District (District), desires to establish policy for the cleaning and repair of sewer laterals.

Background

Prior to July 1, 1969, it was the practice of the District to clean as well as repair the sewer laterals from the property line to the street sewer main. The property owner was then responsible for cleaning and repairing only that portion of the lateral connection located between his/her building and the property line.

At the request of the construction industry, the County Plumbing Code (Ordinance No. 3222 N.S.) makes provision for deletion of the previously required property line clean-out since a readily accessible clean-out at grade level is installed in the lateral near the building it serves.

On March 18, 1969 (Item C) the Board of Supervisors rescinded its prior policy which provided for sanitation districts to install property line clean-outs. On that date the Board of Supervisors also directed that all sanitation districts terminate the program of routine cleaning of sewer laterals effective July 1, 1969.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order 2006-0003-DWQ that mandated sewer agencies establish specific programs for the management, operation, and maintenance of all parts of the sanitary sewer system owned or operated by the agency. To comply with the Order a clear definition of the sewerage components for which the District is responsible is necessary.

The following clarifies the Board's intent and outlines the procedures to be followed:

Definitions

"Property Owner" means the owner of property receiving sewer service from the District or an authorized representative of the owner that is responsible for managing the property and associated sewer service.

"Sewer Lateral" is the segment of pipe that transports wastewater from a building to the public sewer main. The lateral includes the entire length of sewer pipe extending from the building to the public sewer main. All sewer laterals are privately owned and not part of the public sewer system and are the responsibility of the Property Owner.

"Sewer Main" is the publicly owned and operated sewer conveyance pipe, which receives sewage from private sewer laterals.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District (District), that:

When a sewer lateral does not properly drain, the owner of the property served by this lateral is responsible for maintenance and/or repair on the sewer lateral, from the building to the public sewer main.

When failure or stoppage of a sewer lateral occurs, District crews will not respond until the Property Owner has provided a documented invoice from a licensed plumber or certified drain cleaning service that (1) stoppage or failure is between the property line and the sewer main; and (2) that it is beyond the ability of the Property Owner to relieve.

Once this showing is made, the District will attempt to clear the blockage and restore flow in that portion of the lateral located between the property line and the sewer main ~~as soon as possible~~. If the blockage cannot be cleared, the Property Owner will be responsible for sewer lateral repair or replacement.

The District shall not be liable for any harm resulting from the District's attempt to assist the Property Owner in clearing a private lateral, and District staff may require the Property Owner to sign a release of liability as a condition of providing assistance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, where District staff determines the blockage may have resulted from a condition for which the District is responsible, District staff is authorized to take action to resolve the blockage.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-29.

Board Action

12-1-69 (36)

6-20-89 (63)

4-14-99 (11)

08-07-02 (5)

12-09-08 (33)

12-16-15 (8)

11-16-22 (SA02)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works