



City of Long Beach

Protecting Our Waters



City Council Taking a Proactive Approach To Protect City Waters

The City of Long Beach is currently undergoing a series of preventative measures to protect our waters and save taxpayer money.

A resolution is before the City Council to amend the current City Code to require inspections and repairs (only as necessary) to private *sewer laterals* in order to curb exfiltration into Reynolds Channel and reduce infiltration and inflow into the City's sanitary sewer system and groundwater.

What are sewer laterals?

A sewer lateral is an underground pipe that connects a residence or business to sewer mains, carrying sewage to the sewer treatment plant.



Why is this resolution necessary?

There is a requirement under the Federal Clean Water Act for property owners to maintain the sewer laterals that are located beneath their properties. Due to the age of many of the homes in Long Beach, some sewer laterals may be leaking which can cause exfiltration into Reynolds Channel and infiltration into the sewer system and ground water. Infiltration occurs when rainwater and floodwater enter leaky laterals, adding, unnecessarily, to the amount of water and sewage that needs to be treated in our sewer plant. This infiltration causes the City to treat a large amount of water that does not need to be treated, which negatively affects everyone in the City.

A significant benefit of these inspections and repairs will be a major reduction in infiltration.

What will this resolution accomplish?

This resolution amends the City's Code to reduce infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system, groundwater, and waterways, by requiring inspection, testing, repair, replacement and ongoing maintenance of privately owned sewer laterals within the City.

Inspections will only be necessary by the owner at the time of sale of the property or when renovation costs exceed fifty (50%) of the assessed value of the property.

This amendment will be effective April 1, 2014.

Additionally, as required by the Clean Water Act, the City will be educating residents on the environmental dangers of leaky sewer laterals, the need for inspection and repair, and to avoid costly federal litigation. Over time, this legislation will lead to less water being treated by our plant, resulting in less sewage treatment and lower costs for residents. It will also help keep our waters clean.

Have other municipalities done this?

Yes, New York City (all five boroughs), Bethpage, NY; Yonkers, NY; Buffalo, NY; Erie County, NY; Beacon, NY; Ventura County, CA; East Bay Region, CA; Pacifica, CA; South Coast Water District, CA; Livermore, CA; Las Gallinas Valley, CA; Orange County, CA; Rock Island, IL; St. Louis, MO; Charleston, SC; Knoxville, TN; Des Peres, MI; Milwaukee, WI; and McMinnville, OR. all have similar legislation.

IMPORTANT:
This will only affect property owners who wish to sell their property or renovate in excess of 50% of assessed property value.

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