

Uncovering Sewer Laterals: How to Optimize Your Lateral Strategy



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WEST YOST ASSOCIATES

Presentation Outline

- PSL Definition
- Historic Sewer Lateral Policies
- Local Policy Trends
- Sewer Lateral Strategy Toolbox
- Open Discussion
 - Agency Experiences
 - New Ideas
 - Ways to Collaborate

Definition of Private Sewer Lateral

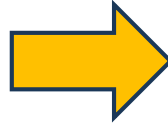


Historic Sewer Lateral Policies

- Often undefined:
 - Ownership boundaries
 - Legality of discharging stormwater, grease, etc.
 - Enforcement authority/penalties
- Call-first policies: clear, clean, and inspect when called by homeowner

Local Policy Trends

▪ Drivers for change:



1. Aging Infrastructure
2. CIWQS Reporting
3. Regulatory Mandates/
Third Party Lawsuits
4. Proactive I/I Reduction
5. Proactive SSO Reduction
6. Customer Service
7. Because it's Cool

▪ Results:

Many agencies have established financial assistance programs and/or PSL policies that allow public utilities to mandate private property improvements that affect the publicly-owned collection system.

Sewer Lateral Strategy Toolbox



Sewer Lateral Strategy Toolbox

- ☑ Legal ordinances:
 - Define ownership
 - Mandate good condition
 - Agency right-to-inspect/test and/or repair
 - Mandatory triggers for owner-paid inspection/test
 - Enforcement provisions
- ☑ Increased maintenance
- ☑ Repair grants/loans
- ☑ Outreach programs
- ☑ Private insurance policies



Lateral Ownership Options

Ownership Option	Benefits and Impacts
Property owner owns entire lateral (up to connection to public main)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach of over 70% of California utilities ▪ No control over lateral condition without supporting PSL policies ▪ No cost or liability
Agency owns lower lateral; property owner owns upper lateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach of ~20% of California utilities ▪ Promotes paving coordination ▪ Ensures integrity of connection to the main ▪ Control of lower lateral and connection to main can reduce I/I ▪ Comprehensive I/I reduction is possible with aggressive supporting PSL policies ▪ SSOs originating in lower lateral are responsibility of agency ▪ Increased costs for additional maintenance staffing/equipment
Agency owns entire lateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach of ~10% of California utilities ▪ Full control over lateral condition ▪ Highest cost and liability

Legal Ordinance Approach

1. Mandate good PSL condition
2. Define agency right-to-inspect and test triggers *and/or* mandatory triggers for owner-paid inspection/testing
3. Determine agency right-to-repair triggers
4. Develop enforcement provisions and protocols

Other Customer Assistance

■ Options

- Curtesy cleaning and inspection/testing
- Annual grant or loan programs
- Pre-qualifying plumbers & contractors for PSL work

■ Benefits

- Increased customer satisfaction/public service
- Increased participation

■ Impacts

- Increased administrative, maintenance, and engineering costs

Open Discussion

- Agency Experiences: Successes/Challenges of Increasing Efforts or Expanding Policies?
- New Ideas to Get the Most Out of New Policies?
- Ways to Collaborate?

Questions/Input?



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Introduction

- Objectives:
 - List the types of sewer ordinance policies that can strengthen sewer lateral ownership, inspection, and maintenance responsibilities.
 - Overcome perceived legal challenges involved with enforcing a strong sewer lateral ordinance.
 - Identify when to use each type of lateral management tool.