



City of Whittier

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772
(562) 567-5900

Sewer Lateral Problems and Repair Procedures

Problem: Sewer lateral is holding water, overflowing, or backed up.

Possible Cause:

1. The city's sewer main may be blocked. Contact the city if you believe the problem is in the city's sewer main. Call (562) 567-9540 during normal business hours or (562) 567-9240 after hours.
2. Sewer lateral broken or deteriorated.
3. Root penetration due to cracked / damaged sewer lateral.

Solution:

1. Contact a plumbing contractor to determine how best to correct your situation. The city recommends you get three bids.
2. Obtain all applicable permits from Public Works and Building & Safety *before* having the line repaired. Refer to the requirements – attached.
3. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the house sewer lateral per Whittier Municipal Code (W.M.C.) Chapter 13.32, Sections 13.32.20, 13.32.30, and 13.32.50 – see below.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.020 – House sewers – Compliance required.

- A. All house sewers from the main sewer to the property line or easement line constructed under contract with the city shall meet the requirements of specifications adopted and approved by the council, unless otherwise specifically excepted.
- B. All house sewers from the main sewer to the property line or easement line constructed by any person including a municipally-owned public utility shall meet the requirements of specifications adopted and approved by the council, unless otherwise specifically excepted.
- C. All house sewers from the property line to within twenty-four inches of the exterior wall of the building or structure shall meet the requirements of the plumbing regulations of this city.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.030 - House sewers – Existing.

The following requirements shall apply to existing house sewers:

- A. When it is found necessary to replace any portion of an existing house sewer between the street curb and lot line, all that portion of the house sewer between these limits shall be replaced to meet the requirements for new house sewers.
- B. When it is found necessary to replace any portion of an existing house sewer between the curb and public sewer, all that portion of the house sewer between these limits shall be replaced to meet the requirements for new house sewers.

W.M.C. Section 13.32.050 – House sewers – Maintenance.

All house sewers and appurtenances thereto, now existing or hereafter constructed, **shall be maintained by the owner of the property served** in a safe and sanitary condition, and all devices or safeguards which are required by this article for the operation thereof shall be maintained in good working order.

Acceptable Repair Materials:

1. The Public Works Department only permits the use of sewer rated ABS, PVC and PVC SDR plastic pipe for open excavation repairs and sewer rated HDPE plastic pipe within the city's public right of way or city easements.
2. **Trenchless technologies are not permitted** in the city's public right of way or easements unless explicitly approved by the City Engineer.
3. If the work is to be done from the house to the property line, contact Building & Safety at (562) 567-9320 for acceptable material requirements.

Tree Roots and Sewer Pipes:

Roots are opportunistic in nature. Roots will seek out leaking broken sewer pipe and proceed to grow into the pipe looking for nourishment. A well maintained house sewer lateral should be free of leaks. No leaks means no root intrusions.

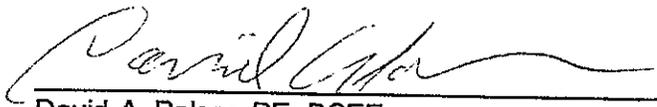
Notes:

- **Do Not** cut any city tree roots unless authorized to do so by the Parks Department. Serious damage may occur to the tree or an unsafe condition may arise. Also, fines and/or liability charges may be imposed if any unauthorized tree cutting takes place.
- If you are unsure if the tree in question is a city tree or if authorization for cutting city tree roots is needed, contact the Parks Department at (562) 567-9400 before beginning work.
- Property lines vary depending on street location. If you need to determine your property line, contact Public Works at (562) 567-9510.
- The contractor must notify Underground Service Alert (DigAlert) at 811 at least two working days before any excavation can take place.

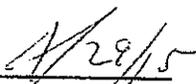
Claims Procedure:

If a property owner believes that the damage to the house sewer lateral or property was caused by the city's negligence, a claim for reimbursement may be filed with the city. Contact the Controller's Department at (562) 567-9810 to request a claim form. Prior to filing a claim, you may choose to complete your sewer repairs as the claims review process is lengthy and can take several weeks.

Approved:

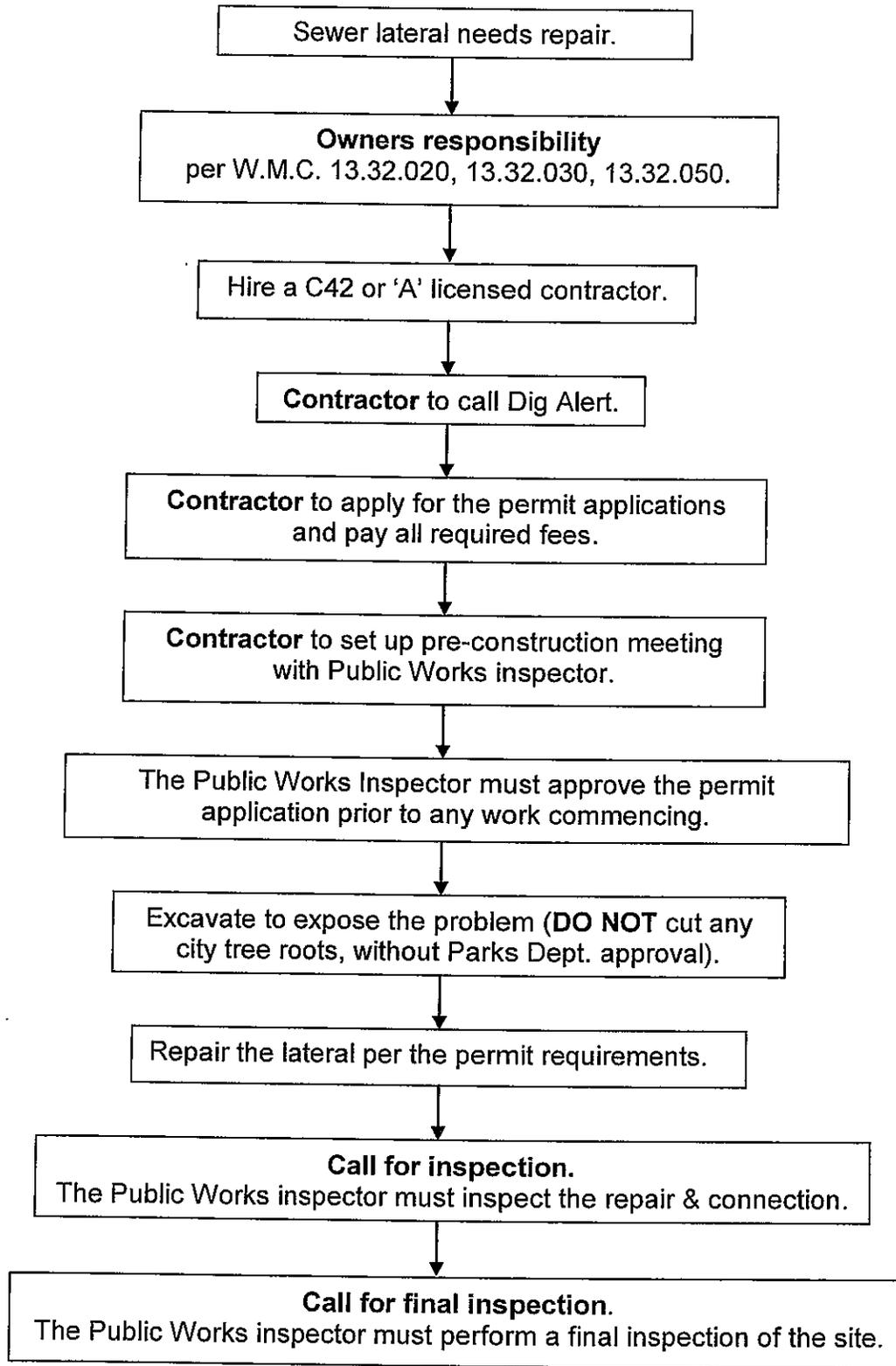


David A. Pelsner, PE, BCEE
Director of Public Works

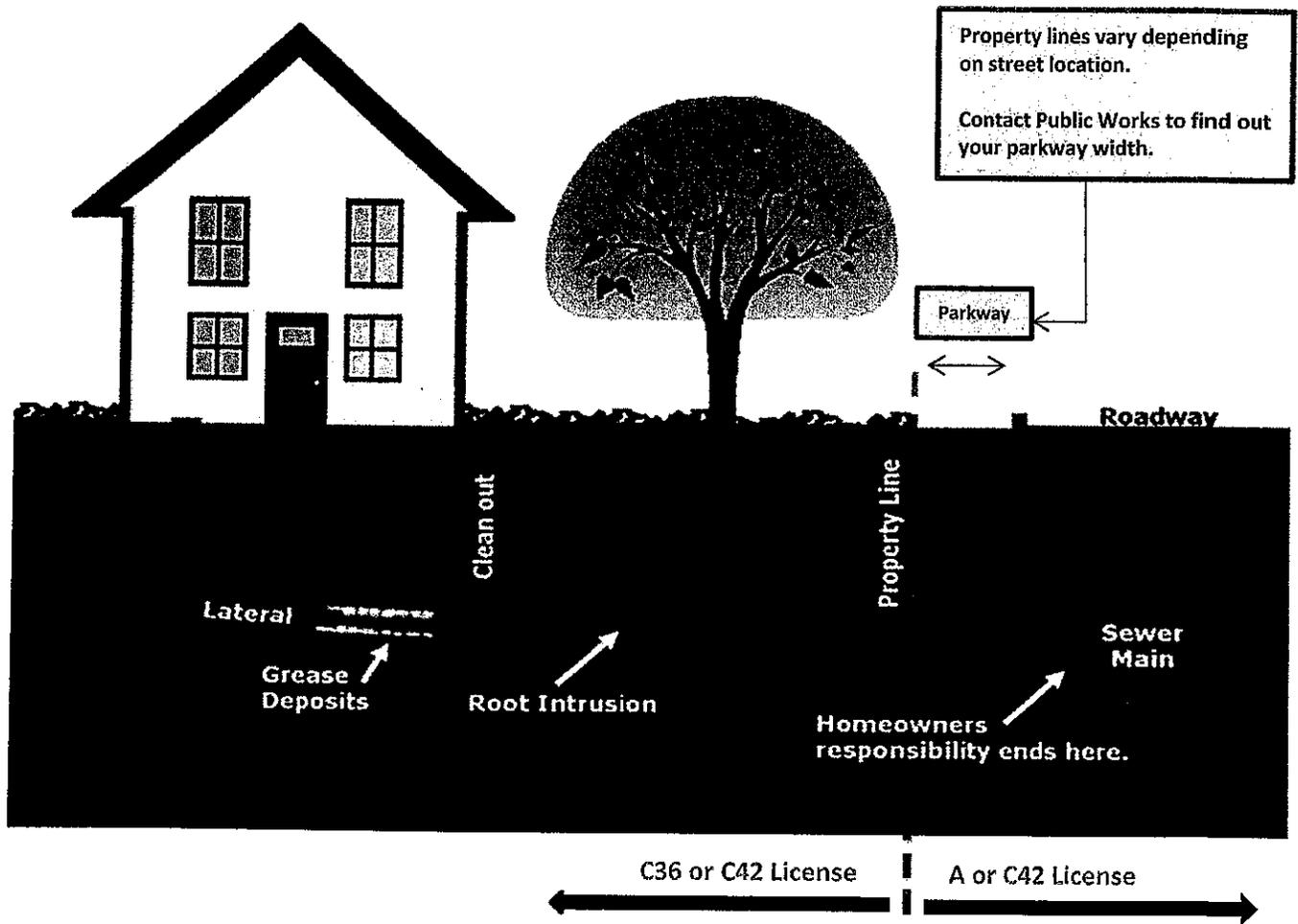


Date

Sewer Lateral Repair Procedure
For Working in the Public Right of Way or City Easement



Example of a Residential Sewer Lateral



Important Phone Numbers:

- Public Works (562) 567-9510
- 24-hr Sewer Emergency (562) 567-9240
- Dig Alert 811

