

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Acuna Canyon

Distance: 0.41 Miles  
Hike Time: 30 Minutes  
Difficulty Level: Hard



## Program Overview

The ocean is one of our greatest natural treasures, yet it is continually threatened by pollutants from sewer spills and storm water run-off.

San Diego, a city that borders the oldest, largest, and deepest ocean in the world, has over 40 urban canyons that hold 300 miles of public sewer lines. Most of these pipelines have unfortunately exceeded their life expectancy and are often inadequately maintained, making them susceptible to damage that can cause harmful spillover into our local



Once a break in the system takes place, untreated wastewater (the stuff that comes from our washing machines, sinks and toilets) may enter a nearby creek, river or storm drain and travel hundreds of miles downstream, eventually pouring into our coastal waters. Here, it spreads, becomes virtually impossible to contain and harms fragile marine life.



To help keep our waters contaminant free and safe for all, the San Diego Oceans Foundation has teamed up with the Metropolitan Wastewater Department's Sewer Spill Reduction Program to enlist citizen volunteers.

Volunteers are crucial to the Canyon Watch Program by regularly monitoring our urban canyons and reporting potential threats.

# What to Look For...

As a Canyon Watch volunteer, you will be responsible for monitoring our local canyons. While patrolling, you should look for leaks, unusual smells and damaged or vandalized manholes. Any findings should be recorded in your 'Canyon Watch Field Report' and submitted online after your hike is completed. **Immediately report any active sewer spills or foamy discharge to the Sewer Emergency Hotline (619) 515-3525.**

## Manholes

Manholes are typically painted lime green for easy identification. Check that all manholes are secured with a locking bar or recessed bolts and that they are clear of vandalism and other damage.



## Unusual Smells

Manholes in proper working order should not emit odors. Foul smells are a sign of possible leaks or spills and should be included in your 'Field Report', but do not warrant a call to the Emergency Sewer Hotline.



## Sewer Leaks & Foamy Discharge

Any sort of foamy discharge or active spill should be reported **immediately** to the Sewer Emergency Hotline! It is crucial to record the number painted on the manhole structure and GPS coordinates, if available, so you can accurately report its location.



## Exposed Sewer Lines

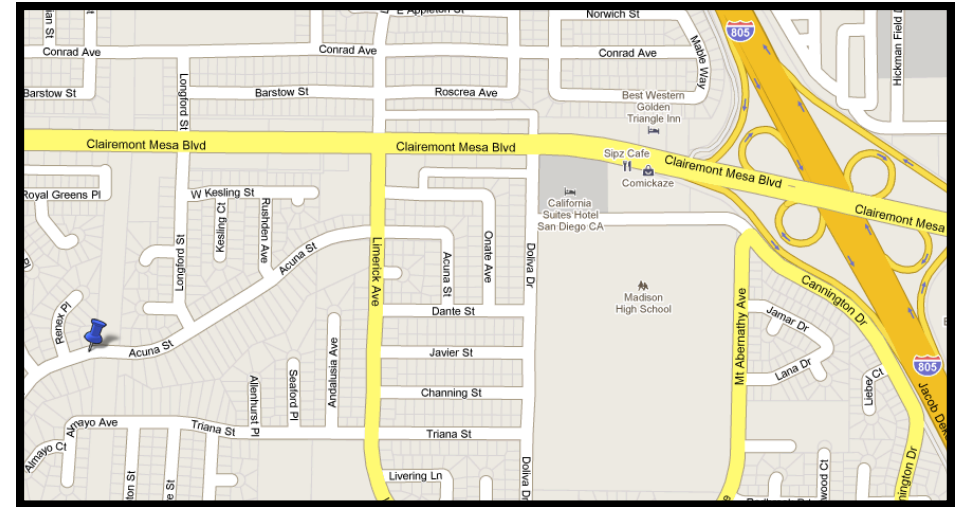
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



# Acuna Canyon

~ 4900 Acuna Street  
San Diego, CA 92117

Take I-805 to Clairemont Mesa Blvd and head West.  
Turn left on Limerick Ave and right onto Acuna St.  
The entrance to the canyon is on your left,  
through the chain-link fence.



**Note:** This area is considered private property and permission may be required. This canyon should be monitored in pairs or small groups and is not advised for lone hikers or small children. Long pants are necessary due to the amount of brush.

# Manhole Guide

The following information will lead you to the various manholes throughout this canyon. Please read the 'Hiking Safety Tips' available at [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org) before beginning your hike.

Due to vegetation growth and other, unforeseen changes, some manholes may not be immediately visible. If a manhole cannot be reached due to construction or certain environmental hazards, please make a note of it and move on to the next manhole on your list.



## - Acuna Canyon Entrance -

Upon entering, head down the small hill. Go right on the path to find the first manhole on our list.



1. Manhole #326  
32° 49.82 N 117° 11.06 W

Located directly on path.  
\* Turn around (180°) and head to the opposite side of the canyon for MH #320.



2. Manhole #320  
32° 49.83 N 117° 11.03 W

Just left of path. Marked by tall post.



3. Manhole #318  
32° 49.81 N 117° 11.00 W

Follow small path through brush. Turn left at next path. Manhole located near large palm tree. Continue on small path past palm to next manhole.



4. Manhole #317  
32° 79.82 N 117° 10.96W

Follow path to left. Manhole is located directly in front of path. Head right to get to the next manhole (stay right at next 'fork' between palm trees).



5. Manhole #304  
32° 49.82 N 117° 10.92 W

Directly in front of path.



6. Manhole #303  
32° 49.84 N 117° 10.91 W

Located right of path. Veer left and over the creek bed to continue on path towards next manhole.



7. Manhole #302  
32° 49.86 N, 117° 10.88 W

Directly in front of trail. Continue past MH #302 and through group of palms to find the next manhole. Stay left past the thick patch of bamboo.



8. Manhole #236  
32° 49.87 N, 117° 10.84 W

On right of path (near fence). Head left to path for MH #235.



9. Manhole #235  
32° 49.91 N 117° 10.81 W

Flat on ground (directly on path).

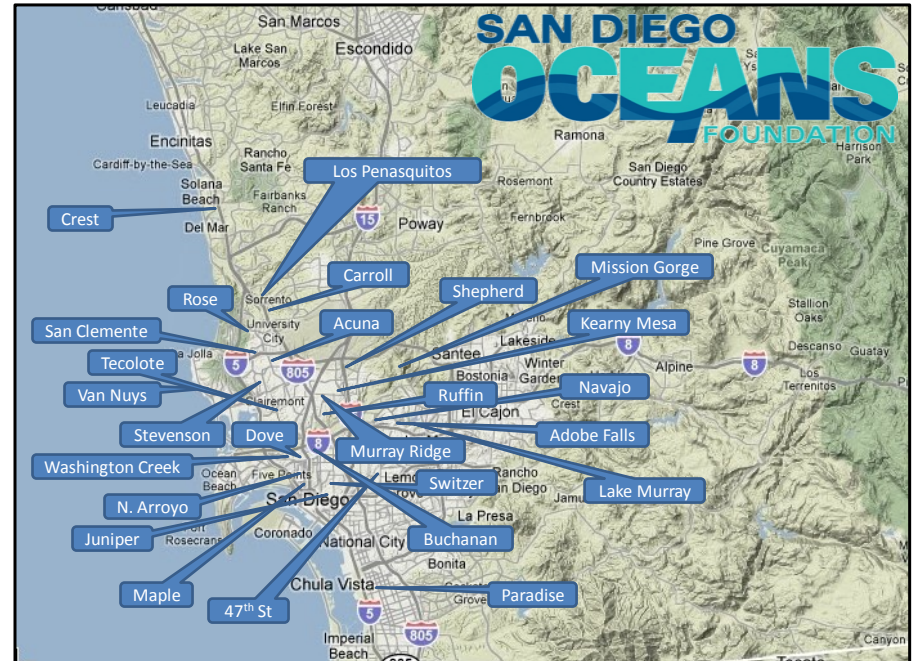
Thank you for monitoring Acuna Canyon!

Please be sure to submit your Canyon Watch Field Report online at [http://sdoceans.org/pollution\\_report\\_2.php](http://sdoceans.org/pollution_report_2.php) within 24 hours of your hike.

Volunteer submissions are the key to early detection and prevention of raw sewage from making its way into our ocean!

**Option 1:** Turn around and head back the way you came.

**Option 2:** Head left on path. Continue towards fence and up hill to church parking lot. Return to start on Acuna St (preferred).



Visit [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org) to locate guides for other available canyons in San Diego County.

# SAN DIEGO OCEANS FOUNDATION

[www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org)

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