

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Los Peñasquitos Canyon (West)

Distance: 1.46 Miles

Hike Time: 1 Hour

Difficulty Level: Easy



## 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

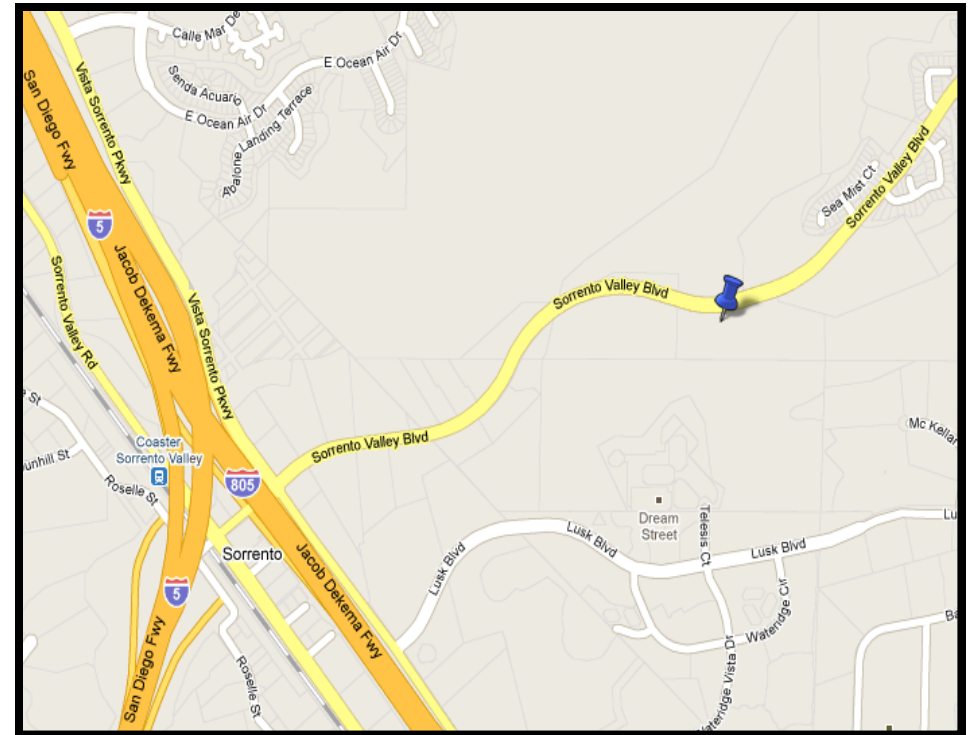
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



# Lost Peñasquitos Canyon (West)

Sorrento Valley Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92121

From I-805, exit Sorrento Valley Blvd and head east.  
Continue until you find a parking lot entrance on your right.



The trailhead is located on the north side of Sorrento Valley Blvd.

- Dogs welcome with leash -

**\*Note:** This sewer line has several repeated numbers indicating specific manholes. When submitting your field report, please include the coordinates of the manhole you are referring to ensure accurate location information.

# 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.



1. Manhole #12  
32° 54.45 N 117° 12.35 W

Head left to find trail. Just after crossing under overpass, first MH on right.



2. Manhole #4  
32° 54.80 N 117° 12.29 W

Left of path, marked by pole.



3. Manhole #3  
32° 54.86 N 117° 12.22 W

Left of path.



4. Manhole #2  
32° 54.88 N 117° 12.13 W

Take curved path to right. MH behind shrubs. Back to main path.



5. Manhole #1  
32° 54.90 N 117° 12.07 W

Left of path.



6. Manhole #19  
32° 54.96 N 117° 12.02 W

Left of path. Keep eyes open to left for MH#15.



7. Manhole #15  
32° 55.03 N 117° 11.96 W

Left of trail. Stay on new path.



8. Manhole #16  
32° 55.09 N, 117° 11.90 W

8 feet right of trodden path. Marked by pole and green painted rock. Continue on path.



9. Manhole #17  
32° 55.15 N, 117° 11.82 W

On path behind shrub. Head back. At MH#4 continue on path to find MH#1.



10. Manhole #1  
32° 54.75 N 117° 12.35 W

Continue past MH#4 on same path.  
MH on right of trail.



11. Manhole #14  
32° 54.62 N 117° 12.42 W

Left of trail, surrounded by shrub.



12. Manhole #15  
32° 54.57 N 117° 12.49 W

Right of path, between two trees.



13. Manhole #16  
32° 54.53 N 117° 12.57 W

Right of path, marked by pole.



14. Manhole #2  
32° 54.48 N 117° 12.66 W

Left of path in front of 'Ruiz Alvarado  
Adobe'. Between two trees.



15. Manhole #3  
32° 44.45 N 117° 12.70 W

Middle of path on other side of fence.  
Marked by pole.

To get back to parking lot:

1. Back track on trail, or;
2. From MH#3 head up hill to cross Sorrento Valley Blvd. and head east to parking lot.

Thank you for monitoring Los Peñasquitos 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!



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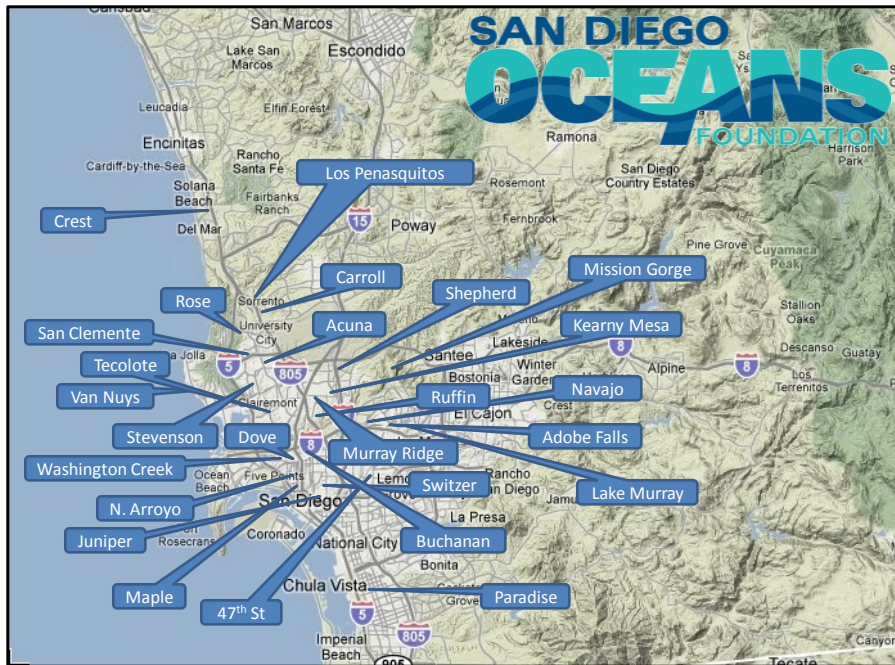
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Visit [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org) to locate guides for other available canyons in San Diego County.

We rely on donations from people who wish to see the marine environment protected for its intrinsic value, for their enjoyment and for that of future generations.

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