

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



Lower Tecolote Canyon

Distance: 1.18 Miles

Hike Time: 1.5 Hours

Difficulty Level: Moderate



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

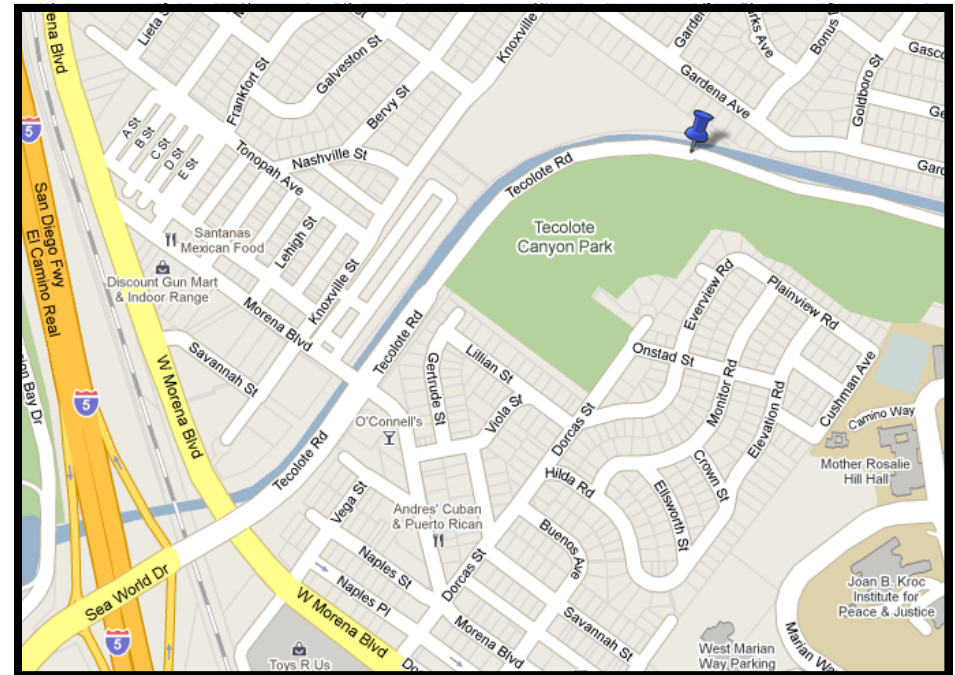
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



Lower Tecolote Canyon

5180 Tecolote Road
San Diego, CA 92110

From I-5, exit SeaWorld Dr/Tecolote Rd and head east. Follow Tecolote Rd through to the Tecolote Nature Center. Park in the adjacent parking lot.



From the parking lot, the trailhead can be found to the left of the Nature Center.

Poison oak is prevalent in this area. Please use caution!

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 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 #268
32° 46.53 N 117° 11.80 W

Flat on path, just after Nature Center.



2. Manhole #275
32° 46.57 N 117° 11.72 W

Right of path, in brush (marked by post).



- 3 & 4. Manhole #272 & #274
32° 46.51 N 117° 11.71 W

Right of path. Marked by post.
MH #274 is located just behind MH#272.



5. Manhole #210
32° 46.49 N 117° 11.63 W

Right of path.



6. Manhole #211
32° 46.48 N 117° 11.59 W

Right of path, marked by pole.



- 7 & 8. Manhole #212 & #209
32° 47.52 N 117° 11.39 W

Right of path.



9. Manhole #208
32° 46.46 N, 117° 11.53 W

Just right of path.



- 10 & 11. Manhole #203 & #202
32° 46.46 N, 117° 11.48 W

Right of path. May be covered by vegetation.



12. Manhole #201
32° 46.48 N 117° 11.42 W

Right of path.



13. Manhole #179
32° 46.49 N 117° 11.38 W

10 ft right of path.
May be covered by vegetation.



14. Manhole #180
32° 46.50 N 117° 11.35 W

Right of path. Marked by pole.
May be covered by vegetation.



15. Manhole #183
32° 46.52 N 117° 11.32 W

Right of path, marked by pole.



16. Manhole #184
32° 46.53 N 117° 11.27 W

Right of path.



17. Manhole #182
32° 46.49 N 117° 11.26 W

275ft right of trail (from MH #184).
Marked by green post.



18. Manhole #185
32° 46.54 N 117° 11.23 W

12ft right of path. May be covered by
vegetation.



19. Manhole #186
32° 46.55 N 117° 11.20 W

Left of trail, in small opening.



20. Manhole #169
32° 46.56 N 117° 11.17 W

Directly left of path.



21. Manhole #170
32° 46.56 N 117° 11.17 W

To the left of path. 15 ft past
MH#169.



22. Manhole #165
32° 46.63 N 117° 11.11 W

On left, through fence, marked by pole.
Note: This MH is in a 'Habitat
Restoration' area. Please have only one
person proceed to monitor.



23. Manhole #166
32° 46.64 N 117° 11.08 W

Right of path, at fork.
Continue on main trail.



24. Manhole #498
32° 46.68 N 117° 11.07 W

Left of path, at opening just before
power lines.



25. Manhole #476
32° 46.69 N 117° 11.03 W

Backtrack to small fork and head left.
MH is on right. Continue on smaller
path to MH #477.



26. Manhole #477
32° 46.82 N 117° 11.03 W

Left of path. Backtrack to small fork
and head up hill for next MH.



27. Manhole #41
32° 46.73 N 117° 10.99 W

20ft right of path. Continue up hill,
to the left and back down to find MH
#44. Note: The two manholes in
between are no longer in service.



28 & 29. Manhole #44 & #45
32° 46.79 N 117° 10.97 W

Once back downhill, take path to right
(before returning to main trail). MH #44
is low to the ground, on the right. MH
#45 is just past #44, to the left.



30. Manhole #47
32° 46.82 N 117° 11.00 W

Head back to the main trail. Take
small trail to the right, into brush. MH
is about 50 ft from path. Return to
main trail.



31. Manhole #58
32° 46.95 N 117° 11.02 W

Take smaller path towards hill. MH on
right, marked by pole.



32. Manhole #62
32° 47.01 N 117° 11.06 W

Left of path, near golf course.

Thank you for monitoring Tecolote Canyon!

Please be sure to submit your Canyon Watch Field Report online at 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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Visit 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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