

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



East Los Peñasquitos Canyon (South of Peñasquitos Creek)

Distance: 1.27 Miles
Hike Time: 1.5 Hours
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

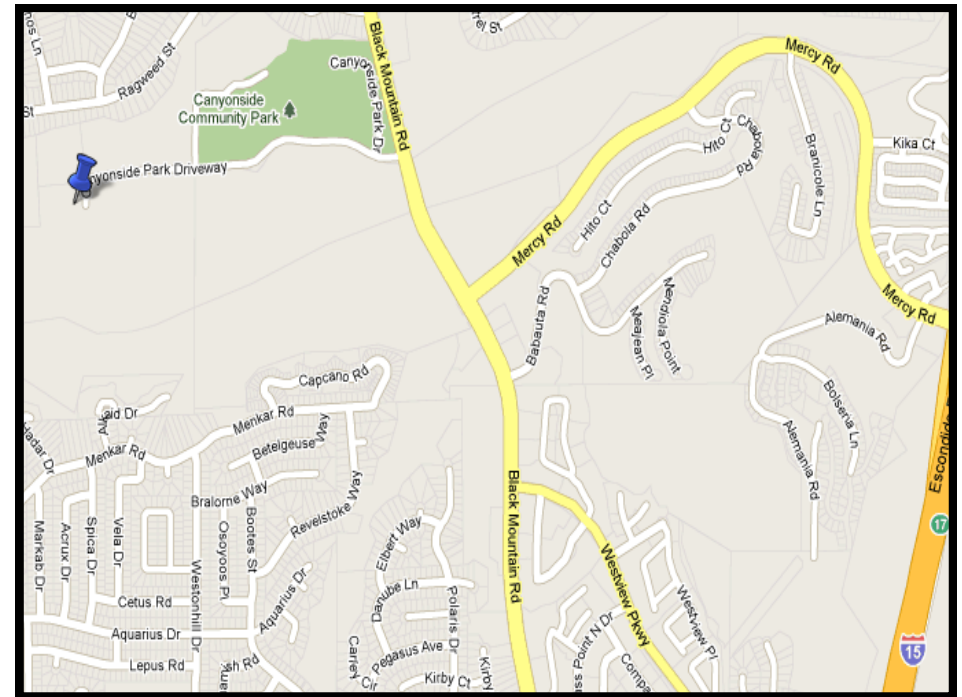
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



East Los Peñasquitos Canyon

12020 Black Mountain Rd
San Diego, 92129

Take I-15 & Exit on Mercy Road. Head west on Mercy Road. Make a right on Black Mountain Road. Turn left at Canyonside Park Road. Follow road past the baseball fields, to the Ranch House and park.



Enter trailhead SE of the Ranch House. Go down the path and over a foot bridge. You'll pass a small parking lot on your left and then veer right with the trail, into the canyon. When you hit the first "Ranch House Crossing" sign, take a right. Go around the group of trees and over another foot bridge. Turn right at the first fork and then go left on the main trail.

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 #40
32° 55' 49" N 117° 07' 35" W

Directly to right of trail.



2. Manhole #41
32° 56' 15" N 117° 08' 05" W

On left side of path



3. Manhole #42
32° 56' 18" N 117° 08' 05" W

25 feet left of path; near wood fence



4. Manhole # 144
32° 56' 20" N 117° 07' 49" E

25 ft. left of path. Just before parking lot on Black Mountain Rd. Turn around and head back in the direction you came from. Continue past manhole #40 .



5. Manhole #39
32° 56' 20" N 117° 07' 49" W

On left side of path



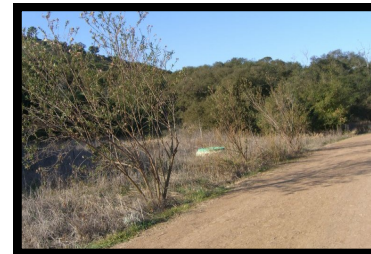
6. Manhole #11
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 14" W

Just left of trail, behind patch of vegetation (near grave site)



7. Manhole #10
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 15" W

Just left of trail; across from bike trail



8. Manhole #9
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 18" W

6 feet of left of trail



9. Manhole #8
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 23" W

Just left of trail



10. Manhole #7
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 27" W

6 feet right of trail



15. Manhole #1
32° 56' 13" N 117° 08' 47" W

Left of trail, behind brush



11. Manhole #5
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 30" W

Left of trail



16. Manhole #18
32° 56' 14" N 117° 08' 50" W

10 ft left of trail, slightly hidden
CAUTION: Surrounded by poison oak!



12. Manhole #4
32° 56' 11" N 117° 08' 33" W

Right side of path



17. Manhole #17
32° 56' 14" N 117° 08' 51" W

Right of trail



13. Manhole #3
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 36" W

Right of trail, just after small fork



18. & 19. Manhole #174 & #191
32° 56' 13" N 117° 08' 53" W
#191 is located directly left of the trail.
#174 is about 10 feet further off the trail
(behind #191). Continue on main trail
(left of fork).



14. Manhole #2
32° 56' 12" N 117° 08' 41" W

Right of trail



20. Manhole #172
32° 56' 13" N 117° 09' 06" W

100 feet left of trail.
May be hidden by vegetation.

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 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!



1875 Quivira Way, C-5 | San Diego, CA 92109
P: (619) 523-1903 | F: (619) 523-1979

Executive Director

John Valencia, john@sdoceans.org

Program and Outreach Director

Cheryl Barnes, cheryl@sdoceans.org

Marketing and Development Director

Heidi van Lydegraf, heidi@sdoceans.org

Ocean In Motion Program Coordinator

Zoe Dagan, zoe@sdoceans.org



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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