

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Mission Gorge

Distance: 2 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

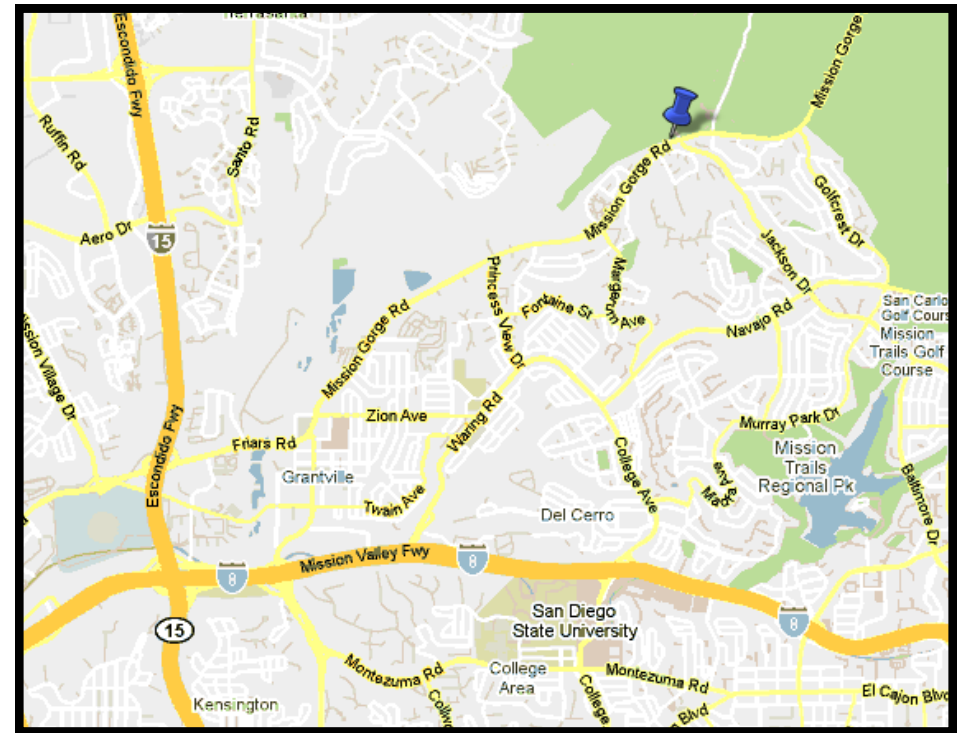
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



# Mission Gorge

Jackson & Mission Gorge  
San Diego, CA 92071

Take I-8 towards I-15 (head North); Exit Friars Road East  
Make a slight left on to Mission Gorge Road  
Turn Left at Jackson Road (into the parking lot).



Enter trailhead on left of parking lot,  
next to the bulletin board.

# 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 #33  
32° 49' 8" N 117° 3' 4" W

Left of trail and downhill.



2. Manhole #39  
32° 49' 8" N 117° 3' 40" W

Right side of trail.



3. Manhole #41  
32° 49' 9" N 117° 3' 41" W

Directly on trail, slightly on the right.



4. Manhole #40  
32° 49' 10" N 117° 3' 42" W

Green pole 20 ft. up slope on right of trail.



5. Manhole #29  
32° 49' 11" N 117° 3' 41" W

45 ft up slope on right of trail. Hidden in brush. Difficult to climb; send one adult.



6. Manhole #28  
32° 49' 12" N 117° 3' 43" W

100 ft. south of #29. 15 ft. up slope on right of trail.



7. Manhole #27  
32° 49' 13" N 117° 3' 45" W

Directly right of trail.



8. Manhole #26  
32° 49' 16" N 117° 3' 44" W

Just before fork, under trees left of trail, 10 ft in,. Take right hand trail at fork.



9. Manhole #37  
32° 49' 22" N 117° 3' 31" W

Left of trail, 100 ft past green fence post, almost next to creek. Under yellow caution tape on tree.



10. Manhole #38  
32° 49' 24" N 117° 3' 21" W

Left of trail, 100 ft past green fence post.  
Look for yellow caution tape.



11. Manhole #2  
32° 49' 27" N 117° 3' 27" W

Left of trail, 100 ft past green fence post,  
follow path to yellow caution tape.



12. Manhole #3  
32° 49' 26" N 117° 3' 26" W

Left of trail, 2 ft past green fence post.



13. Manhole #4  
32° 49' 26" N 117° 3' 23" W

Directly left of trail.  
**Beware of Poison Oak.**



14. Manhole #13  
32° 49' 25" N 117° 3' 20" W

Directly on left of trail.



15. Manhole #14  
32° 49' 23" N 117° 3' 29" W

Before fork in trail on left.

To continue on to Old Mission Dam on foot take a left at fork, skipping manhole numbers 16 and 17. Take trail towards Father Juniper Serra for about 2 miles to Old Mission Dam parking lot on left. To continue by car, take a right at fork.



16. Manhole #15  
32° 49' 29" N 117° 3' 24" W

Immediately after fence, on right of trail.



17. Manhole #16  
32° 49' 20" N 117° 3' 22" W

Right of trail, hidden in brush. After fence on left hand side,, trail bends to the right.

Guide continues at Old Mission Dam...

To arrive by Car: Turn right at fork in path, then turn right again & take wooden stairs downhill. Follow trail up to Visitor Center and take loop to reach car in parking lot. Take left at Mission Gorge Rd. Left at Mission Trails Visitor Center entrance. Continue straight up Father Juniper Serra Trail & take left at Old Mission Dam parking lot to park. Walk towards past bathrooms and picnic tables to reach trail.



18. Manhole #14  
32° 50' 23" N 117° 2' 34" W

Directly on right of trail.



19. Manhole #13  
32° 50' 23" N 117° 2' 37" W

Directly on left side of trail.



20. Manhole #10  
32° 50' 21" N 117° 2' 41" W

Directly on trail, before bridge.



21. Manhole #9  
32° 50' 20" N 117° 2' 42" W

Manhole is the concrete structure on right of foot bridge.



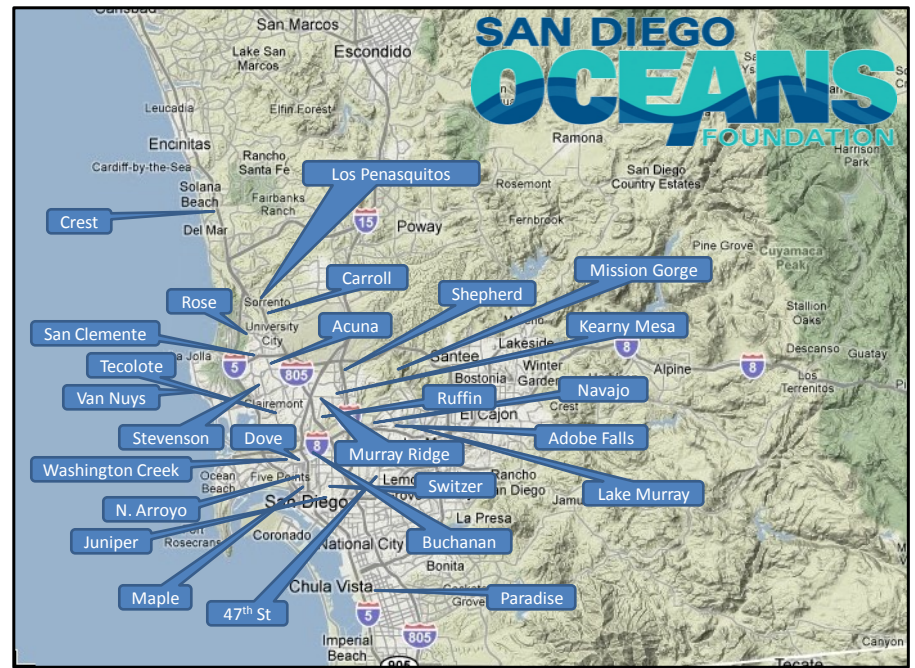
22. Manhole #8  
32° 50' 25" N 117° 13' 8" W

Walk over foot bridge. Manhole is the concrete structure on left.

# Thank you for monitoring Mission Gorge!

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!



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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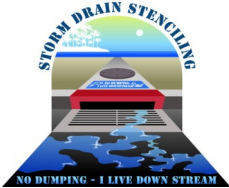
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