

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Tecolote Canyon (Upper)

Hike Time: 2 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 waterways.



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.



## Sewer Leaks & Foamy Discharge

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



## Unusual Smells

A foul odor is a sign of possible leaks or spills. Check that there are no rank or rancid aromas near the manhole area.



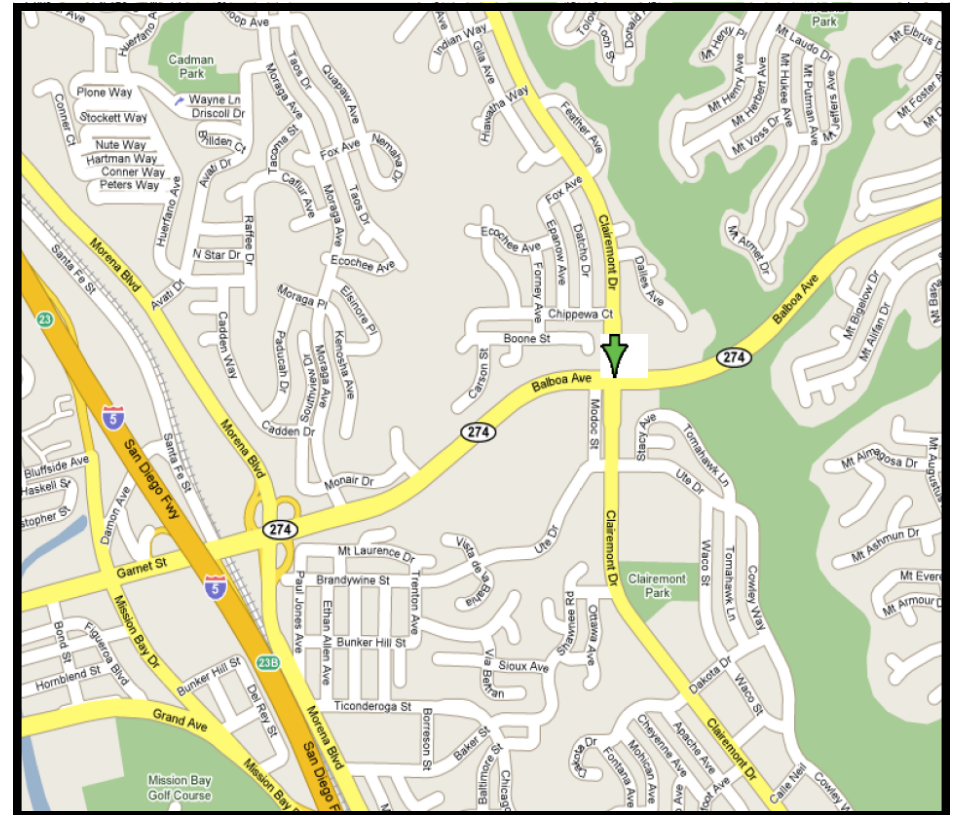
## Sewer Lines

Pipelines should be buried underground. Check for sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion.



# Tecolote Canyon

From I-5, take Balboa Ave East to Mt. Everest Dr.  
Turn left on Mt Everest Dr, continue until Mt Etna Dr.  
Make a left at Mt. Etna Dr.  
Continue until you see Mt. Etna Park on your left.  
Parking is available at Mt. Etna Park.



# Manhole Guide

The following information will lead you to the various manholes throughout the canyon. Please read the Canyon Monitor Tips on [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org) before you start your hike. Due to vegetation growth and other, unforeseen changes, some manholes may not be immediately visible.



1. Manhole #  
32° 49' 09" N 117° 11' 30" W

Right of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



2. Manhole #  
32° 49' 10" N 117° 11' 30" W

Right of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



3. Manhole #  
32° 49' 08" N 117° 11' 31" W

Right of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



4. Manhole #  
32° 49' 06" N 117° 11' 30" W

Left of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



5. Manhole #  
32° 49' 03" N 117° 11' 33" W

Just right of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



6. Manhole #  
32° 49' 01" N 117° 11' 34" W

Just left of path, South of Mount Etna Park



7. Manhole #  
32° 48' 58" N 117° 11' 35" W

Just right of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



8. Manhole #82  
32° 48' 56" N 117° 11' 36" W

Just left of the path, South of Mount Etna Park



9. Manhole #81  
50' off path, down the slope on the right. South of Mt. Etna Park, just North of Balboa Ave. Turn right on Balboa Ave and walk a short distance to re-enter canyon.



10. Manhole #47  
15' left of path at beginning of trailhead,  
North of Balboa Ave.



11. Manhole #49  
Just left of path, North of Balboa Ave.



12. Manhole #48  
Left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



13. Manhole #66  
5' left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



14. Manhole #70  
10' left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



15. Manhole #71  
On path to right, flush with ground,  
North of Balboa Ave.



16. Manhole #304  
Just left of the path, North of Balboa  
Ave.



17. Manhole #305  
Just left of the path, North of Balboa  
Ave.



18. Manhole #306  
10' left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



19. Manhole #307  
On left side of the path, flush with the  
ground, North of Balboa Ave.



20. Manhole #347

Just left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



21. Manhole #246

On the right side of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



22. Manhole #345

Just right of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



23. Manhole #344

15' right of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



24. Manhole #50

Just left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



25. Manhole #51

Just left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



26. Manhole #52

Just left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



27. Manhole #77

Just left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



28. Manhole #6

5' left of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



29. Manhole #4

Just right of the path, North of Balboa Ave.



30. Manhole #75

5' right of the path, between forks (you should take the left fork), North of Balboa Ave.



31. Manhole #79

Just right of the path, North of Balboa Ave.

End at Genesee Ave. and Chateau Dr. To return to Mt. Etna Park, head right (uphill) on Genesee, turn right on Mt. Herbert Ave., and left on Mt. Etna Dr.

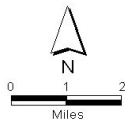
## Thank you for monitoring Tecolote Canyon!

Please be sure to submit your Canyon Watch Field Report online 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 submit your report and locate guides for other San Diego canyons.



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December, 2001  
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Data Sources: SANDAG, Earth Tech.



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