



Carpinteria Sanitary District

Carpinteria Sanitary District Bluffs Sewer Relocation Project

Prop 50 Funding

In a competitive grant for Integrated Regional Water Management monies under Proposition 50, the Carpinteria Sanitary District was awarded \$1,250,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Bluffs Sewer Relocation project. The total project cost is \$2,500,000.

Bluffs Sewer Relocation Project

The CSD Bluffs Sewer Relocation Project is replacing approximately six thousand (6,000) linear feet of existing gravity sewer pipeline from the current location along the edge of Carpinteria Bluffs to within Carpinteria Avenue. The sewer pipeline serves existing commercial, industrial, and recreational users located west of Via Real.

Need for the Project

An existing sewer gravity pipeline is located along the top edge of the Carpinteria Bluffs, and a significant portion of the pipeline corridor is located in an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) (Coastal Sage Scrub). The pipeline is subject to surface erosion and has failed on at least one occasion causing discharge of raw sewage into the Pacific Ocean. The previous failure required emergency realignment and construction within the banks of Lagunitas Creek. The Bluffs pipeline is difficult to access and for maintenance and emergency response, hence relocation of the pipeline to Carpinteria Ave. would significantly reduce the failure threat and would remove the sewer infrastructure from the Carpinteria Bluffs and ESH. The new pipeline would be easily accessible. Further, replacement of the inverted siphon crossing Carpinteria Creek would remove the existing exposed pipeline, which may be a barrier to the passage of Steelhead Trout. The new siphon would be more reliable and have a lower potential for blockages and resultant sewer overflows into Carpinteria Creek.

Project Benefits

The Carpinteria Bluffs Preserve is important to the Santa Barbara region; local citizens joined with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and raised the money to purchase the land, which contains walking trails, a bikeway, and a 6-acre area for soccer and baseball fields. The Carpinteria Bluffs also contain undisturbed grasslands and coastal sage that serve as foraging grounds for birds. This project eliminates the potential for pipe failure and sewage discharge to the Carpinteria Bluffs, Garrapata Creek, and the Pacific Ocean, benefiting ocean and creek water quality and biological resources. The removal of infrastructure will enhance the natural setting enjoyed by those who frequent the bluffs. The project also will eliminate the need to remove or impact Environmentally Sensitive Habitat for pipeline maintenance, emergency response or repair. Relocation of the pipeline will facilitate pipeline maintenance and reduce potential for sewer overflow and associated impacts to public health and the environment.

