



an HVLCSD winter announcement

OCTOBER 2023

This is an informational letter tailored to this upcoming rainy season. If you have any questions about this notice please reach out to Hannah Davidson, hvidavidson@hvlcsd.org. We will respond to your inquiry as soon as possible!

WHAT IS A CLEANOUT?



Photo courtesy: The Spruce

A Sewer Cleanout (or simply “Cleanout” for short) is a capped pipe that extends out of a building’s sewer lateral. When open, it provides access to the lateral in the event of a blockage. The sewer lateral from the home to the property line is the responsibility of the property owner and everything after the property line is the responsibility of the public sewer system – the CSD!

Your property will have one or more cleanouts depending on your home’s layout and distance to the sewer mainline. They also may have unique lids depending on their location.



Photo courtesy: The City of Pouay



Photo courtesy: HomeGuard

NEGLECTED CLEANOUTS ARE ALLOWING STORMWATER INTO OUR SEWER SYSTEM—AND THAT’S BAD!

While cleanouts are an essential plumbing component, they are harmful if they allow anything other than sewage inside the lateral. Open cleanouts are an entryway for stormwater into the public sewer system because water can flow directly into the lateral. A damaged lateral that allows groundwater to enter it is an entryway for stormwater as well.

Why is it bad for stormwater to be collected this way? While there are combined sewer and stormwater systems, the CSD is not one of them. The CSD’s wastewater treatment plant is only designed to treat sewage for a community the size of Hidden Valley Lake, with the exception of a little more flow during emergencies. An increase in the amount of rainfall is causing stormwater to enter the public sewer system at a greater rate. This is causing components at the wastewater treatment plant to overflow which can endanger public health, environmental health, bring the CSD out of state and federal compliance, and increase the cost of service to you.



how can you help?

Here are things you can do to help maintain the public sewer system:

- **Seal your cleanouts**

Check your property's cleanout(s) and ensure they are sealed. If you require help, reach out to us and we may be able to assist you.

- **Report homes with open cleanouts**

If you see a property with an open cleanout, let us know. While cleanouts are typically neglected by mistake, sometimes they are deliberately opened to redirect stormwater from residences. This is a violation of the CSD's Sewer Ordinance No. 60 Subsection 4(b)12 (summarized at the end of this notice).

- **Prevent drains from feeding into cleanouts**

Ensure that drains are directed into the stormwater system and not into cleanouts. Using cleanouts for this unintended use is a violation of the CSD's Sewer Ordinance No. 60 Subsection 4(b)12 (summarized at the end of this notice).

- **Repair damaged cleanouts and sewer laterals**

Repair broken cleanouts and replace missing lids. Since damaged laterals are difficult to spot, reach out to us and we may be able to assist you.

► SUMMARY OF SEWER ORDINANCE

CSD Ordinance No. 60 Subsection 4(b)12, prohibits sewer service users from introducing or causing to be introduced to the District wastewater treatment plant any, "*Storm water; surface water; ground water; artesian well water; roof runoff; subsurface drainage; swimming pool drainage; condensate; deionized water; noncontact cooling water; and unpolluted wastewater unless specifically authorized by the District;*". Residential cleanouts consist of a "*...cap that provides access to the side lateral so that blockages can be removed,*" and are not to be used for the draining of flooded property or for stormwater relief. Property owners and others are not to allow any cleanouts to be opened outside of the uses authorized by Ordinance 60.

Should the CSD become aware of a residence using a cleanout(s) in a manner that violates Ordinance 60, a Notice of Violation will be issued, and an attempt will be made to educate the property owner on the proper use of cleanouts. Any improper use of the cleanout(s) thereafter will result in civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day pursuant to Section 11 of Ordinance No. 60, and further actions, up to and including legal action, will be taken as necessary to protect the wastewater infrastructure serving the residents of Hidden Valley Lake.

THE MISSION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE, MAINTAIN AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER.

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