Water Authority Construction and Repair Projects

The Water Authority actively works to maintain and improve the reliability of its aqueduct system. When the pipelines and facilities require repair or new construction, the Water Authority distributes notices to inform property owners and neighbors. If the work requires removal of landscaping or other items from a Water Authority easement, right of way representatives will meet with the affected property owners to discuss the project plan.

Property Transfers

Right of way easements appear in the title reports for the property when it is transferred from seller to buyer. When selling, leasing, or renting property that is affected by a Water Authority right of way, property owners must disclose easement requirements and restrictions to new owners or tenants. Property owners with questions should contact the Water Authority’s Right of Way department for clarification.

Learn More

The Water Authority encourages property owners to learn more about the right of way. The agency’s website makes it easy to obtain details about specific right of way issues. Please visit www.sdcwa.org/infra/row.phtml to:

- obtain a copy of the right of way encroachment permit application
- review a copy of the San Diego County Water Authority’s right of way administrative code
- find more information

You may also call the Right of Way department directly at (858) 522-6900.

San Diego County Water Authority

The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region’s $150 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.
Right of Way

The pipelines and other structures within the right of way ensure safe and timely delivery of water to customers. The right of way must remain accessible to Water Authority personnel at all times. Unimpeded access helps staff perform routine maintenance and respond immediately during the rare instances of equipment failure.

A team of Water Authority specialists manages the right of way and protects it from unauthorized encroachments. Inspectors monitor the right of way weekly to identify new and potentially hazardous encroachments. Many years ago, most of the Water Authority’s right of way traversed undeveloped and rural land. Today, much of this land is urbanized with homes and businesses adjacent to the Water Authority’s right of way.

Regulating Encroachments

Placing improvements in the right of way requires an encroachment permit from the Water Authority. Sometimes owners do not comply with the terms of the easement or the right of way regulations affecting their property. As a result, the Water Authority’s right of way may be obstructed by improvements such as trees, fences, structures, or parked vehicles placed by the owner.

This creates an “unauthorized encroachment.” If the property owner does not have an encroachment permit from the Water Authority authorizing such uses, the agency’s administrative code requires the owner to remove, at his or her expense, any encroachment that interferes with the Water Authority’s use of the right of way.

A Water Authority right of way.

The Water Authority’s Right of Way Department regularly assists property owners with questions regarding easement improvements or unauthorized encroachments. Contact a Right of Way representative at (858) 522-6900 for more information.