



Sewer Compliance Update May 2011

Officials with the City of Piedmont have told us implementation of the new sewer mandates has been postponed. The compliance was to go into effect May 9, 2011. We are now being told that it will be sometime in the fall. We will check with Chester Nakahara, Director of Public Works, in the coming months to get more detailed information. Our contacts with the City of Oakland had nothing to add. EBMUD has informed us they plan to start with Piedmont first, then Emeryville and City of Oakland last.

They want the smaller cities first and largest last. Negotiations between the Federal EPA, EBMUD and the State of California are complicated by legal issues. The cities and EBMUD need to wait until issues have been resolved. That leaves us in the industry hanging on what we should be telling our client. It has been generally agreed that compliance will be required when people sell their properties, remodel with a cost of \$100,000.00 or more, or request a different sized water meter. The compliance will last for 20 years if the sewer is replaced completely, or 7 years for repaired or tested sewers. However nothing is set in stone.

Originally it was thought that testing of the laterals would be required in the cities which did not currently have a compliance program in effect. Proof of testing showing the lateral was air and watertight would be given to EBMUD. They would issue a compliance certificate for a fee. According to our sources testing will not be required. A sewer video will be required if the sewer cannot be verified as replaced in the last 5 – 10 years. This is similar to what is already being done in Berkeley and Alameda. We hope that the final format will be consistent throughout the service area.

Faulty sewer laterals are responsible for pollution in the bay, overflowing sewage treatment plants, backed up city mains and raw sewage spilling onto residential properties. Last year many properties were flooded when raw sewage from city mains overflowed. Some of these properties were our customers. All of the above is partially cause by faulty residential sewer laterals.

We at Harry Clark Plumbing & Heating are experts in video inspection, repairs, cleanout and sewer replacement including Trenchless. To schedule and appointment with one of our advisors please call 444.1776.

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