

Lower Linda Mar Roadway Flooding Issues – December 23, 2021

Recently, the lower Linda Mar area experienced two documented roadway flooding issues including an area where water levels came up over the curb to just past the back of sidewalk at Anza and Arguello. The highest water level documented during the storms was at 2 feet in height in the roadway gutter. This area and some other locations of lower Linda Mar are part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Zone and have experienced past flooding issues. Many homes in this area employ sump pumps that pump high groundwater to the street from under their homes and this area requires homeowners to carry special flood insurance. The City continually works to minimize flooding in this area including employing storm water pumps at the Linda Mar and Anza pump stations and keeping storm drain inlets and pipes clear of debris. Although the Linda Mar pump station is fully automated, fire damage to the Anza pump station in March of 2020 required replacement of the equipment with a temporary system that is manually operated. Staff has been working closely with the California Coastal Commission on permitting that would allow for a permanent automated system to be installed and has recently issued a request to the Commission to be allowed to move forward on an emergency basis.

The most recent roadway flooding occurred late on December 23, 2021. At this time, both the Anza and Linda Mar pump stations were operating and managing storm water appropriately. The roadway flooding occurred following an intense rain downpour. The City's pipe sensor (located in the storm drain inlet at the Anza and Arguello intersection) showed that during the downpour the pipe had additional capacity, however, the intensity of the downpour caused roadway water to back up at the inlet due to large water flows down the street.

The City is in the process of a Storm Drain Master Plan update and is continuing to document this roadway flooding issue, as well as others, for the storm drain consultant to assess with the study. The study is anticipated to be complete by summer of 2022.

Information regarding the City's Storm Drain Master Plan can be viewed at:

https://www.cityofpacific.org/depts/pw/engr/storm_drainage_master_plan/default.asp

The webpage provides an e-mail for residents to provide information regarding flooding issues. This is stormdrainplan@pacific.gov. Additionally, the City's project manager, Lawrence Henriquez, for the Master Plan can be contacted at lhenriquez@pacific.gov.

The City's crews work diligently and around the clock to address drainage and flooding issues during rain events. Recently, members of the public interfered with one of our first responders addressing storm water issues. Please do not interfere or distract employees during a storm response as this may slow down their ability to respond to the emergency.

Sincerely,

Lisa Petersen
Public Works Director