



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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SEWER SPILLS IN CITY AT ALL TIME LOW SPILLS IN 2005 DOWN 84% FROM 2000

In 2005, the City of San Diego saw an 84 percent reduction in the number of sewer spills in the City since Calendar Year 2000. Last year also saw the fewest number of spills since such records began being kept in 1987.

The year 2000 has been used as a baseline since the start of the City's Sewer Spill Reduction Program in 2001. In 2000 the City had 365 sewer spills, 33 of which reached public waters. In 2004, the number of spills had fallen to 127. In 2005, there were only 63 sewer spills with only nine reaching public waters.

"The low number of sewer spills for 2005 is great news for San Diego," said Mayor Jerry Sanders. "These kinds of numbers just don't happen by accident. They reflect the dedication and hard work of City staff."

The Sewer Spill Reduction Program conducted by the Metropolitan Wastewater Department had several key elements: cleaning all 3,000 miles of the Municipal Sewerage System by 2004; televising and assessing more than 1,200 miles of the oldest and most problematic sewer lines in the City; and increasing the miles of sewer lines replaced or rehabilitated from 15 miles per year to 45 miles per year.

"The Spill Reduction Program has had a dramatic impact," noted Scott Tulloch, Director of Metropolitan Wastewater. "Any spill, regardless of cause, is one spill too many and during 2006 we'll continue working to lower the number of sewer spills even more."

For more information on the Sewer Spill Reduction Program and how residents can help prevent sewers spills, contact the Metropolitan Wastewater Hotline at 858-292-6484 or visit its website at www.sandiego.gov/mwwd.

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