

LAND SURVEY – Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Land Survey Section do?

It provides the City's overall land surveying services for aerial mapping; preliminary surveys; construction surveying; monument preservation/perpetuation in accordance with the California Business and Professions Code; inspection of subdivision monuments in accordance with the Subdivision Map Act, boundary surveys of City-owned property and rights of way; horizontal and vertical control; monitoring of local reservoirs; preparing legal descriptions and accompanying exhibits; archiving field notes; and provides City attorneys with advice on surveying matters.

Does the Land Survey Section survey privately held lands?

No; however, the Land Survey Section will try and answer any questions the public may have regarding land surveying. If you need to hire a land surveyor, one may be found on the [California Land Surveyors Association's \(CLSA\) 'find a surveyor' webpage](#). When deciding to have your land surveyed, the professional land surveyor is required to survey your boundary, set missing monuments, and record or file a document with the County Surveyor, such as a Corner Record, Record of Survey, Final Map or Parcel Map.

Can you recommend a private land surveyor to survey my property?

The City cannot recommend one surveyor over another. Professional Land Surveyors are licensed by the State Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists and are able to practice anywhere in the state. Most Land Surveyors in private practice are listed on the [CLSA's 'find a surveyor' webpage](#). You may also find a surveyor in your area through the [Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists](#).

How do I locate my property corners?

You will need a copy of the map and/or deed that created your parcel. You may try to interpret it; however, to insure that all monuments are in the proper location you need to contact a Professional Land Surveyor (or Civil Engineer Registered prior to 1982) licensed by the State Board of Registration.

How do I obtain copies of fields notes, record maps, as-built drawings or other City drawings?

All City records are available at the Maps and Records Section of the City's [Development Services Department](#). To make an appointment to view the records, please call 619-446-5300.

What is a survey monument?

In surveying, monuments are defined as physical objects on or in the ground, which establish the location of boundary lines, and are often referred to as "property markers." Monuments come in many forms and

sizes, ranging from a small tack set in a lead plug in concrete, a nail and brass disc set in concrete within an iron pipe of various diameters, a large house-sized boulder, a 200-year-old Douglas fir tree, the center of a river, or even the crest of a mountain range. Monuments can be natural or manmade. Visit the [CLSA website](#) for some examples.

The City fixed my sidewalk and now my survey monument is missing. How do I have my survey monument reset?

Please call or email the Survey Monuments Supervisor and they will look into the matter and have your survey monument reset if the City is found to be responsible.

I need to have the monuments inspected for my map so I can get the delayed monumentation bond released. What do I need to do?

Contact the professional land surveyor who prepared and signed your map. They will need to set all the monuments or release their obligation to another surveyor through a letter to the City Land Surveyor. Once all the monuments are set per the map, the surveyor shall submit two copies of the map, a Certificate of Correction, if applicable, and a letter stating that they have been paid for their services and they release their claim on the surety. The work order number for the map needs to be open to be charged against for the field inspection. Once the Land Survey Section receives the package the monuments will be field verified. The City will work with your surveyor through this process which will lead to the final acceptance of the monuments. A letter will be sent to DSD notifying them that the field survey section has accepted the monuments. DSD will then go through the process of taking your bond release request to City Council for approval. Once City Council has approved the release, the surety will be sent back to the financially responsible party.

How do I find a benchmark for my project?

Please see the [Vertical Control Book](#) for benchmarks within the City.

My project will destroy a benchmark or GPS point per ROS 14492. Who do I contact to let them know?

Call 619-533-4207 or email engineering@sandiego.gov with your information and the appropriate staff member will get back to you.

My neighbor built a fence on my property. Can you help me?

Since property disputes are a civil matter between the parties, here are some suggestions. First verify the encroachment by contacting a Professional Land Surveyor (or Civil Engineer Registered prior to 1982) licensed by the State Board of Registration. Second, try to contact your neighbor to work it out between yourselves. If the first and second suggestions don't work, you may consider consulting an attorney.

Who do I contact for broken sidewalks, potholes, etc.?

To report all non-emergency problems and request services, you can file a report by downloading the “Get It Done San Diego” app or visiting sandiego.gov/get-it-done.

Who is the resident engineer for my project?

To find out who the resident engineer is for your project, call 858-627-3200 and someone will assist you.

Contact information

For information on active construction projects managed by the City, call 619-533-4207 or email engineering@sandiego.gov. Contact information for specific members of the Land Surveying Section can be found below:

Senior Land Surveyors

- DSD
 - Gregory Jeffries, 619-446-5132, GJeffries@sandiego.gov
- E&CP Field
 - John Butcher, 858-627-3208, JButcher@sandiego.gov
- E&CP Office
 - Daniel Watkins, 858-627-3212, DWatkins@sandiego.gov

Associate Land Surveyors

- Records and GIS
 - Mahmoud Khalili, 858-627-3226, MKhalili@sandiego.gov
- CADD
 - Jose Lara, 858-614-4562, JELara@sandiego.gov
- Construction Staking
 - Owen Pilgrim, 858-627-3223, TPilgrim@sandiego.gov
 - Ron Elrod, 858-541-4346, RElrod@sandiego.gov
- Consultant Contracts
 - Emery Sisko, 858-614-4562, SiskoE@sandiego.gov
 - Kyle Nguyen, 858-654-4435, KCNguyen@sandiego.gov
- Survey Monuments and Subdivisions
 - Paul Piscopo, 858-627-3225, PPiscopo@sandiego.gov
- Preliminary Surveys
 - Tony Nothdurft, 858-627-3222, TNothdurft@sandiego.gov
 - Andrew Harris, 858-627-3260, ATHarris@sandiego.gov
- Right of Way
 - Garrett Smith, 858-654-4444, GDSmith@sandiego.gov
- Photogrammetry
 - Bruce Ing, 858-627-3294, BIng@sandiego.gov

The Land Survey Section offices are located at 9573 Chesapeake Dr., San Diego, CA 92123.