



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

"Working together to engineer a better tomorrow."

UPAS STREET PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Infrastructure Projects:

- Airports
- Bikeways
- Bridges
- Drainage Control Facilities
- Flood Control Facilities
- Libraries
- Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Police Stations
- Fire Stations
- Lifeguard Stations
- Street Improvements
- Street Lights
- Traffic Signals
- Utilities Undergrounding
- Water Facilities
- Sewer Facilities
- Water Pipelines
- Sewer Pipelines

Project Overview

Why is this project needed? What are the consequences of not moving ahead with it?

The Upas Street Pipeline is more than 70 years old and has a recent history of leakage and pipe breaks. If it is not replaced, there is a real potential for failures resulting in unplanned water service interruptions affecting thousands of users, including residences, businesses, schools, and hospitals. Such failures could require protracted and costly emergency repairs, and may lead cause additional potentially costly and inconvenient impacts such as roadway pavement damage.

Who will benefit from the project?

The Upas Street Pipeline is one of three transmission mains that deliver water to residences, businesses, and other facilities located in the City's Midway-Pacific Highway, Uptown, Greater North Park, and Balboa Park communities.

In addition to local residents, thousands more – including Balboa Park and Morley Field users, visitors to the San Diego area, and residents and businesses in neighboring communities – will benefit from the improved reliability and reduced maintenance costs resulting from the Project.

Why must the replacement pipeline be located in Upas Street?

Relocating the pipeline to an alternate alignment would require additional reconfigurations to the City's water system; it would be more costly and would have greater impacts on the community and the environment. Replacing the pipeline in its existing location is the most cost-effective and lowest-impact approach.

Will this project affect my water rates?

This project is adequately supported under current water rates and will not require additional rate increases. City water infrastructure projects are funded by revenues from water rates in combination with state funding. Water mains and other critical infrastructure needing replacement are identified and prioritized under the Public Utilities Department (PUD) master planning program. Water Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects are transferred from PUD to the Public Works Department's Engineering & Capital Projects Division for design and construction once adequate funding has been identified. For more information on water rates, please visit the City's water system page: <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/rates/>.

What type of environmental review will this project undergo?

This project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project CEQA document – expected to be an initial study and mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) – will be circulated for public review in early 2013. Information on the status of the CEQA document will be posted on the project website; please visit the website regularly for the latest. You can also subscribe to the "Interested Parties" email list to receive personal notification when the environmental document is available for review.

