



IMPORTANT TIPS REGARDING “S” PERMIT & SEWER LATERAL RECONNECTION Palisades Wildfire Rebuilding Information Handout

This handout explains the basic requirements for reconnecting your property to the City sewer system after wildfire damage.

WHAT IS AN “S” PERMIT?

An “S” Permit (Sewer Connection Permit) is required to reconnect your property to the City sewer system.

The permit:

- Creates an official City record of your sewer connection.
- Allows the City to inspect the sewer lateral before reconnection.
- Helps confirm the sewer pipe is safe to use.

WHAT IS A SEWER LATERAL?

A sewer lateral (also called a house connection or “HC”) is the sewer pipe that carries wastewater from your property to the City sewer main in the street.

The property owner is responsible for maintaining the sewer lateral, including the portion located in the public right-of-way between:

- The property line, and
- The connection to the City sewer main

HOW MANY PROPERTIES CAN CONNECT TO ONE LATERAL?

Only one lot may connect to one sewer lateral.

Shared laterals are generally not permitted for new reconnections.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE RECONNECTING?

Before reconnecting to the sewer system, property owners must:

1. Apply for an “S” Permit
2. Perform a CCTV sewer inspection of the existing lateral



3. Schedule a City inspection before any reconnection work begins

WHAT IS A CCTV INSPECTION?

A CCTV inspection uses a small camera to inspect the inside of the sewer pipe.

The inspection helps identify:

- Root intrusion
- Cracks or broken pipe
- Offset joints
- Collapsed sections
- Blockages
- Other damage

The City will use the CCTV results to determine whether the lateral can be reconnected or must be repaired/replaced first.

WILL I NEED TO REPLACE MY EXISTING SEWER LATERAL?

Existing 4-Inch House Connection (HC) in Good Condition

- Reconnection is generally allowed.
- Upsizing to a 6-inch pipe is NOT required solely for reconnection.

Existing Lateral in Good Condition

- Reconnection will be approved.

Existing Lateral in Poor Condition — No Threat to the Street

If:

- Sewage still flows properly, AND
- The lateral will not damage the roadway or public right-of-way.

Then:

- Reconnection may still be allowed.
- The owner may choose to reconnect “as-is.”



Existing Lateral in Poor Condition — Potential Damage to Street

If the sewer lateral could:

- Damage the roadway
- Create sinkholes
- Cause exfiltration or leakage
- Impact the public right-of-way

Then:

- The sewer lateral **MUST** be repaired or replaced before reconnection

CAN I RECONNECT WITHOUT REPAIRING A DAMAGED LATERAL?

Possibly.

If the City determines the damage does not threaten the roadway or public infrastructure, the owner may choose to reconnect using the existing lateral “as-is.”

However:

- Future repairs may still become necessary.
- The owner remains fully responsible for maintenance and repairs.

PROPERTY OWNER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

If choosing not to repair the existing lateral at this time, the property owner may be required to acknowledge that:

- The property was damaged during the 2025 fires
- A CCTV inspection identified existing pipe damage
- The lateral remains functional
- The condition does not currently threaten the roadway
- The owner understands the existing condition
- The owner elects to reconnect using the existing lateral “as-is”
- The owner accepts responsibility for future maintenance and repairs

Once the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) determines the lateral does not imperil the roadway, BOE will coordinate with inspection staff to finalize the reconnection permit.

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STEP-BY-STEP: HOW TO APPLY FOR AN “S” PERMIT

Step 1

Go to:

[LA City Engineering Permits Portal](#)

Step 2

Select:

“Sewer Connection (S) Permit”

Step 3

Sign in using your Angeleno Account.

If needed, create a new account using the “Sign Up” option.

Step 4

Inside the BOE Customer Portal:

- Select “Sewer Connection (S) Permit”
- Click Continue

Step 5

Select:

“Apply for a Sewer Connection Permit”

Step 6

Choose:

“I am constructing/adding a new building/house and would like to reconnect to the City sewer line at my property line.”

Step 7

For “Type of Work,” select:

“Reconnection”



Step 8

Enter applicant and project information.

Step 9

Under Customer Comments, type:
"Requesting a permit for reconnection and CCTV"

Step 10

Create a password to track your application online.

Step 11

Select:
"Windstorm and Fires January 2025"

This identifies the project as wildfire rebuilding related.

Step 12

Review and submit the application.

After submission, you will receive:

- A confirmation email.
- A reference number.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT START WORK BEFORE INSPECTION

Before reconnecting:

- Coordinate with your plumber or contractor
- Schedule the required City inspection
- Ensure the inspector witnesses and documents the sewer lateral condition.

Unauthorized work may result in delays or corrections.

Schedule a Pre-Construction inspection meeting.

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- CALL BUREAU OF CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (213-485-5080) FOR INSPECTION **PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK**:
- OR CLICK TO "ONLINE INSPECTION APPOINTMENT REQUEST FORM" <https://bcainspection.lacity.org/bcaapp/home>
- FOR STREET TREES: CALL URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION AT (213) 847-3077



You can contact BOE in the following ways:

1. **Customer Service Request (CSR):** Submit your inquiry or issue any time via the 24/7 portal at [Customer Service Request](#)
2. **In-person:**
 - Visit us at the Palisades Inspections and Permitting Support Center (PIPSC): 16925 Marquez Ave. Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
 - Visit our West Los Angeles District Office for walk-in assistance at 1828 Sawtelle Blvd., 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025
3. **Virtual or in-person appointment:** Schedule a virtual web meeting using the [BuildLA Appointment System](#). (appointments.lacity.org)
4. **General virtual counter:** If you have a service-specific question, you can access the virtual counter via [BuildLA Virtual Counter](#) for live assistance. (appointments.lacity.org) Select Virtual counter