SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Environmental Health Services
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CONDUIT STUDY

Conduit studies are performed to evaluate whether subsurface utility conduits are facilitating the migration or accumulation of contaminants in the unsaturated and saturated zone. A conduit study must not only identify the use, location, diameter, and depth of subsurface utilities, but evaluate the potential migration of the contamination within these structures and its potential risk to public health and environment.

At a minimum, a conduit study must implement the following tasks:

• Evaluate right-of-way improvement plans from local districts (e.g. sanitation district) and City, County, and State agencies;

• Evaluate site building plans from the property owner and the applicable City or County department approving and overseeing the construction;

• Field map the use, location, and depth of observable utility structures (e.g. manholes, curb inlets) and the identity and location of Underground Service Alert (USA) markings;

• Remove manhole covers to estimate the depth of identified structures if depth information is not known (may require a permit from the applicable agency and district); and

• Contact USA service providers, local district, and agency personnel to determine the depth of subsurface utility structures if depth information is not shown on obtained plans or readily available by removing manholes.

The conduit study report must contain a base-10 scaled map identifying the use, location, diameter, and depth of identified subsurface utility structures. (GPP staff may request the Responsible Party to submit a copy of all plans obtained). The text of the report must: 1) identify all work performed, 2) evaluate the potential impact and extent of the contamination within identified conduit structures and its potential risk to public health and environment, and 3) provide recommendations to abate identified risks or assess potential impact and risk.