

Storm Drain Workshop Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can the City repair private drainage facilities? Generally, the answer is no, the California Constitution states public funds being used for this purpose would equate to a gift of public funds. However, this is on a case by case basis, findings have to be made that the private drainage has a public benefit to justify the repair.
2. What is the process for submitting a claim for property damage? A homeowner can complete a claim [form](#) and send it to the City Clerk at City of Lemon Grove ATTN: Joel Pablo, City Clerk 3232 Main Street Lemon Grove, CA 91945, or in person at City Hall. The next step is the City submits the form through the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) to act on behalf of the City to accept, reject, return as insufficient, or return as untimely any claims against the City. CJPIA contracts with Carl Warren & Company to investigate and manage all liability claims against the City. If you file a claim with the City Clerk, you can expect to be contacted by a representative from Carl Warren & Company within four weeks of submitting your claim.
3. Does the City determine whether a claim is accepted or rejected? No, the City does not make that decision. It's made by the claims adjuster Carl Warren & Company.
4. If you have a storm drain that dumps water on your property what can you do about it? Contact the City so an assessment can be made to determine the City's responsibility.
5. What happens if I build something that blocks the drainage on my property? It depends on the effects it has on the neighboring properties. You may be legally liable for the negative impact that blocking your drainage system has on surrounding properties.
6. How do I know if the easement on my property is private or public? Check the Title page of the Map or Plan to **verify that the easement has been accepted by the County of San Diego (prior to City incorporation)**. It is possible that a drainage easement is shown on the map but is not accepted by the County of San Diego. If the title page of the record states the easement is **REJECTED**, the property owner is responsible for maintenance of the system.
7. What is the current state of the existing storm drain system? In 2020, the City completed a Drainage Master Plan that examined existing deficiencies and identify recommended improvements for drainage infrastructure. During the 2-, 10-, and 100-year, 24-hour storms, significant flooding occurs along Federal Boulevard and Lemon Grove Avenue. Additionally, during the 100-year, 24-hour storm a section of Broadway and the intersection of Broadway and Sweetwater Way experience significant flooding. The modeling also provides a list of deficient systems. In the 2-, 10-, and 100-year, 24-hour storm events there are 135, 227, and 347 deficient conduits, respectively.
8. What if the title company didn't disclose that I have private drainage on my property prior to purchase? You can file a claim against your title company for failing to disclose that information.

9. Does the \$78 million dollar price tag for drainage infrastructure improvements include damage from the January 22, 2024 storms? No, the \$78 million is based on recommendations based on existing capacity and material. These recommendations resulted in forty-two (42) projects that vary in cost from \$25,343 to \$10,026,194. The combined cost for all the recommendations for these projects totals approximately \$78,183,649.