



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OC Public Works to Perform Emergency Work at Site of Collapsed Private Storm Drain and Large Sinkhole in La Habra**

**OC Public Works is coordinating with the City of La Habra and impacted home owners association on actions to protect public from flooding**

After assessing damage and coordinating a plan of recommended actions with the City of La Habra and the Coyote Village home owners association, Orange County (OC) Public Works has begun to remove debris as part of emergency work where a private underground storm drain collapsed and caused a large sinkhole last Wednesday within the residential community.

OC Public Works began mobilizing crews and equipment to the damaged area at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 29. Crews will clear the area of damaged sections of the private storm drain, turf, sidewalk and other debris within that area of the condominium community in order to remove the storm drain blockage and reduce the risk of flooding. OC Public Works and the City of La Habra coordinated with the home owners association to notify community residents of the emergency work to clear debris and of the temporary impacts to both parking and certain access points while crews and equipment are working in the area. Public safety remains the top priority while this critical emergency work is performed. The home owners association has not yet confirmed future steps to repair the private storm drain.

The sinkhole and collapse of the private underground storm drain occurred at approximately 10:45 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23 along a greenbelt area of the Coyote Village condominium community located at 957 West Imperial Highway in La Habra. The sinkhole is approximately 100 feet long, 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep.

OC Public Works and the City of La Habra's Public Works Department and Police Department responded to the site immediately after the sinkhole was reported, assessed the damaged area and restricted access in the area in order to keep the public safe. The damaged private underground storm drain within the condominium complex is immediately downstream of an open OC Public Works flood control channel located south of Imperial Highway.

While no definite timeline to complete the emergency debris clearing has been determined, crews are attempting to complete the debris removal within the storm drain area by end of day Wednesday of this week. Rain is expected Thursday, January 31 and Saturday, February 2.

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