



City of La Habra
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March 21, 2023

PRESS RELEASE #01-2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Private Underground Storm Channel Roof Collapse at 925 W. Imperial Highway

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In the evening of Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, the City of La Habra was notified that a portion of the roof of a privately-owned underground storm channel at the condominium complex located at 925 W. Imperial Highway, La Habra, California collapsed. The City immediately dispatched police, fire, building/safety and engineering staff to assess the situation at the scene and determined there was no immediate risk of buildings being damaged; however, City staff found the storm channel to be almost completely blocked with debris. This is the second collapse of a portion of the roof of this private storm channel at the location, the first having occurred in January 2019. The next day, March 16th, the Coyote Village Homeowners Association requested assistance from the City to clear debris from their storm channel. After assessing the situation, the City retained a contractor to clear the blockage from the storm channel under the City's abatement and emergency powers. Work commenced on Friday, March 17th and the majority of the emergency work was completed by the end of the day on Sunday, March 19th, prior to the arrival of another set of forecasted storms.

While this is not a City or a publicly owned storm channel, the City took immediate action and incurred costs to help reduce the potential for additional damage or flooding as a result of the most recent roof failure of this private storm channel. The City has also been working for the past several years to secure grant funding to assist the Coyote Village Homeowners Association to make permanent repairs to their private storm channel to avoid the potential for future failures. Last year, with extensive assistance by State Senator Josh Newman, this effort resulted in a State general fund allocation of \$8.5 million to be used for repairs. While this funding has not yet been released by the State, City staff has recently met with staff from the California Department of Water Resources, the agency responsible for administering these funds, regarding this project.

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