

The Essential System That Keeps Sacramento Dry During Storm Events

The City of Sacramento Department of Utilities provides storm drainage service to more than 135,000 customers throughout the city. The City's storm drainage system transports stormwater to the local creeks and rivers. The system includes pipes, channels, ditches, pump stations, levees and detention basins. There are 38,734 storm drains in the city — one on almost every block.

136 utilities staff work diligently during storm events to ensure homes, businesses and personal property stay protected.

Street flooding is usually a sign that part of the system is blocked — often caused by leaves, trash and other debris. Not only do blockages create problems for the storm drainage system, they can damage property.



The City encourages the community to call 311 to report a clogged drain.

Here are some simple steps you can take to help keep our storm drains clean



Call 311
to report a
clogged drain.



Keep a tight lid
on your trashcans
and recycling bins,
especially during
windy days.



Stack your leaf piles
three feet away from
the gutter during leaf
season (November-
January) so rainwater
can freely flow into
the storm drain.



Pick up trash
in your
community.



Pick up after your pets,
as waste contains harmful
bacteria that impacts
stream wildlife, water
quality and, most
importantly,
it can clog drains.



Supervising Engineer Brett Grant Talks Stormwater Projects

Brett Grant is a supervising engineer for construction management and for the Storm Drainage Capital Improvement Program. He works on all aspects of Sacramento's drainage system. With over 24 years working for the Department of Utilities, Brett's primary duties are designing and overseeing construction of capital improvements, planning with the flood and water quality teams and providing engineering support to the storm drainage systems operations and maintenance staff.

Brett's team is currently working on several projects for the capital improvement program including designing a replacement for a 48-inch diameter storm drain pipe, replacing old pump station discharge pipes that go through levees and a program to replace failed pipes in the collection system. A major upcoming project is design and construction of a large storm drainage pump station that will support development of the downtown railyard site where the new Major League Soccer stadium and Kaiser Hospital will be constructed.

His most rewarding accomplishments are designing drainage pump stations and collection system improvements for drainage basins. "I really enjoy the people I work with and knowing that the work my team does helps make Sacramento a better safer and drier place to live."

Sump 2 Has a Big Job Keeping Sacramento Dry

Did you know that Sacramento is the second most flood-prone city in the U.S., just behind New Orleans? Sacramento's geographical landscape forms into the shape of a "bowl" which means the city needs to rely on a series of 150 pumping stations that house more than 450 pumps. Throughout the year, the Department of Utilities staff are constantly working to keep these stations operating properly to prevent flooding.

One pump station in particular, "Sump 2," includes several large pumps that can process up to 100 million gallons of water a day. Sump 2 is located in Land Park, just off Riverside Boulevard and helps to keep Sacramento free of flooding when it rains. During heavy rain, the pumps work overtime to keep water flowing. If there is a power outage, Sump 2 has four backup generators to ensure the pumps keeping Sacramento dry are always operating even during a power outage.

