



**SUBJECT: REQUIRED BACKWATER VALVE INSTALLATION**

Dear Sacramento Area Sewer District Customer:

***A Problem Has Been Found***

The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) has determined that the floor level of the structure on your property is lower than the nearest upstream sewer main line manhole. Our records also indicate no backwater valve was installed on your upper lateral sewer line (see diagram on back page). The valve is intended to prevent sewage from backing up into your home as a result of a stoppage in the public sewer system.

According to the Uniform Plumbing Code, a backwater valve is required on your property's upper lateral sewer line.

***Important Things You Need To Know***

- Backwater valves have been required by the Uniform Plumbing Code since 1946.
- SASD's Sewer Ordinance states that the property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the backwater valve.
- SASD is not the enforcement agency for assuring that the valve is installed when required. If a home requiring a backwater valve was constructed without one, it is the homeowner's responsibility to get it installed.
- If you are receiving this letter, our records indicate that you should have a backwater valve and currently do not. SASD is unable to respond to specific questions as to why a backwater valve was not installed as part of the original construction of your property.
- If a sewer overflow into your property were to occur because the backwater valve has not been properly installed or maintained, SASD will not be responsible for any damage that may result.
- If sewage overflows from the sewer relief valve on SASD's sewer cleanout at any time (see diagram on back page), you should immediately stop using the property's plumbing fixtures. Failure to do so may result in a sewage overflow inside the property structure.

***Avoid sewer overflows...install your backwater valve***  
SASD responds to hundreds of sewer overflows each year that result in sewage backing up into homes and businesses. The costs and inconvenience for such incidents can be severe, and our research indicates that many homeowners' insurance policies do not normally cover the costs for cleaning and/or rebuilding damage caused to structures by sewer overflows. A backwater valve helps prevent sewer overflows.

***What SASD Is Doing To Help***

As a service to our customers, SASD has implemented a program to install sewer relief valves on the sewer cleanout riser located in the public easement or right-of-way. Although the valve reduces the chance that a sewer overflow may occur in a structure, it is **not** a substitute for a backwater valve.

***What You Should Do***

SASD recommends that you contact a licensed plumbing contractor if you are considering having a backwater valve installed or if you would like to investigate whether or not your upper lateral sewer line currently has one.

If our records are incorrect and a backwater valve has already been installed on your upper lateral sewer line, please contact SASD's Development Services at (916) 876-PLAN (7526) so we can update our records. On the reverse side of this letter is a diagram showing a properly installed backwater valve.

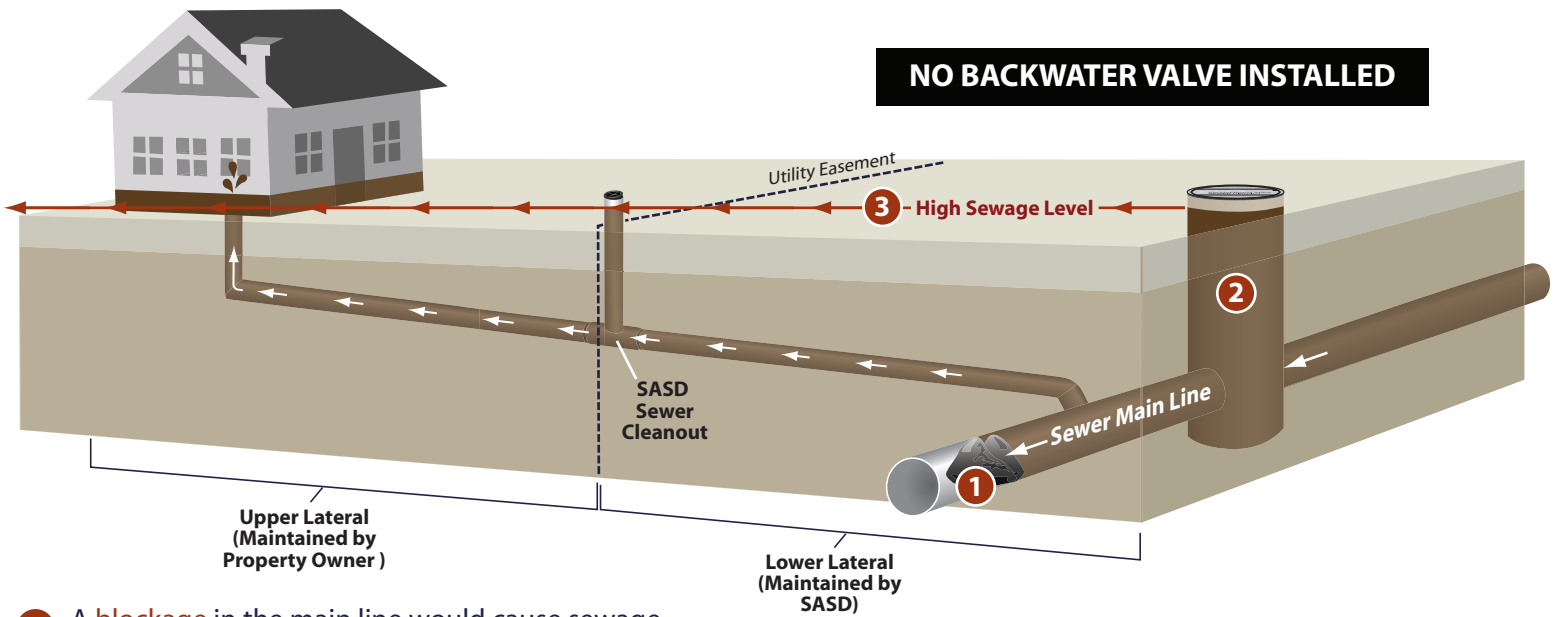
Sincerely,

Sacramento Area Sewer District

**Sewer Problems? Call the District first at (916) 875-6730.  
We'll check our sewer pipes for problems.**

**IMPORTANT FIRST NOTICE**

# BACKWATER VALVE DIAGRAM



- 1 A **blockage** in the main line would cause sewage to backup toward the manhole and structure.
- 2 If the nearest **upstream manhole** is higher than the floor of the structure, a sewage overflow could occur inside the structure.
- 3 See the **high sewage level** in the diagram.
- 4 The one-way flapper inside the **backwater valve** prevents sewage from backing up into the structure.
- 5 With the **backwater valve** engaged, sewage may overflow from the **sewer relief valve** installed on SASD's cleanout. If sewage overflows from SASD's sewer cleanout or the building plumbing/sewer at any time, you should **immediately** stop using the property's plumbing fixtures to avoid experiencing a private sewage overflow inside the structure. Then, call SASD so we can check our pipes for problems.

## WITH BACKWATER VALVE INSTALLED

