



Department of Water Quality
Policy

March 3, 2010

To: City staff (Planning Div., Building Div., Zoning Div., Wastewater Div.), property owners, contractors, engineers, landscape architects, and architects.

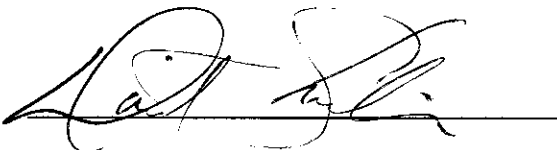
Fr: David Shissler, Director of Water Quality

Re: **Policy on fixed improvements and landscaping within sanitary sewer easements.**

Sanitary sewer easements have been dedicated to the City at various locations throughout the City for the construction, maintenance, and reconstruction of sanitary sewer facilities. These easements must be maintained free of any improvements, landscaping or obstructions that could hinder the City's ability to maintain, repair, or replace sanitary sewer lines at any time, or that might cause damage to the sanitary sewer system. Such ready accessibility is essential to adequately maintain the sanitary sewer system in order to prevent damage to private properties or contamination of coastal waters due to sewer spills. Toward achieving the above objective, the following policy should be followed by all property owners, contractors, engineers, landscape architects, and architects when undertaking any improvement work within a City Sanitary sewer easement, and by all City staff involved in reviewing applications for any form of City approval:

No improvement, fencing, landscaping, or grading shall be allowed within a City sanitary sewer easement without written approval of the Director, excepting the following Improvements:

- a. **Flat-work hardscape and steps that are not primary access for a residence**
- b. **Ground cover and turf landscaping**
- c. **Irrigation**
- d. **Transverse fencing or walls without retaining**

By: 

David Shissler, P.E.
Director of Water Quality