

City of Costa Mesa

City Council Meeting

Service Request Follow-up

Meeting Date: May 3, 2005

TO: City Council

FROM: William J. Morris, Director of Public Services

DATE: May 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Sinkhole at 2282 La Playa Drive South

During "public comments" at the May 3, 2005 City Council meeting, Ms. Leonila G. Claveran, of 2282 La Playa Drive South, expressed concern that there may be a correlation between the sinkhole that was discovered at her residence and the sinkhole that was recently repaired on Albert Place, between Elden Avenue and Orange Avenue.

In January 2005, City staff discovered a sinkhole within the roadway at 273 Albert Place. The sinkhole on the street may have developed due to the failure of an existing, corroded metal storm-drain pipe in Albert Place. City forces performed temporary repairs immediately. Upon approval of Federal emergency funding, the City hired a contractor to make permanent repairs to the damaged storm-drain facility. The underground work began on February 2, 2005, and was completed by February 7, 2005. Since the work was completed, staff has monitored the sinkhole repairs and has confirmed that it was a localized event. The City is in the process of retaining a paving contractor to finalize the resurfacing on Albert Place, which will be completed by the end of May. Further video testing of the sinkhole in Albert Place will be performed during the week of May 16, 2005 through May 21, 2005 to ensure that the repair work meets Federal standards.

On May 10, 2005, Building Division staff visited the property at 2282 La Playa Drive South and reviewed the sinkhole on private property that was mentioned by Ms. Claveran at the Council meeting. It was noted that this sinkhole measured nine to ten inches in diameter at the surface and appeared to be three to four feet in diameter under the surface, based on a neighbor's information. The ground failure at this property is located approximately eighty feet from the storm-drain failure in the street, and the two incidents do not appear to be related.

Staff has offered to give Ms. Claveran the name of the City's testing consultant, who worked on the Albert Place sinkhole. She may then retain his services to conduct testing on her private property at her own expense, in order to make a determination on the cause of the ground failure at her property.

TLB:cv

- c Ms. Leonila G. Claveran
- Allan Roeder, City Manager
- Donald Lamm, Development Services Director
- Ernesto Munoz, City Engineer
- Burt Morgan, Chief Plans Examiner
- Thomas L. Banks, Senior Engineer
- Susan Santoro, Assistant Engineer