

DRAFT Synopsis
GWCSO Ordinance 5

September 19, 2015

The Golden West Community Services District is the special district responsible for maintaining public roads within its boundaries that were dedicated to the County. The District is also responsible for maintaining and improving drainage associated with those roads, including roadside ditches and those culverts passing under roads, but it's a property owner's responsibility to maintain their own driveways and driveway culverts.

The District Board is considering a new Ordinance 5 to regulate private encroachments onto the District's public roads and rights-of-way. The purposes of the new Ordinance are (a) to preserve and protect the integrity and safety of District-maintained roads by preventing deterioration of road surfaces and drainage facilities, (b) to preserve and protect the health and safety of community residents in their use of the District's public roads, and (c) to reduce District maintenance expenses incurred to fix poor drainage. To do these things, the Ordinance establishes the responsibilities and duties of property owners regarding installation, improvement and maintenance of their encroachments onto District public roads. Most often, these encroachments are private driveways, culverts, swales, fences, retaining walls or shrubbery.

The Ordinance has two main parts. The first part addresses maintenance and repair of private encroachments – principally driveways and culverts. It outlines property owners' responsibilities for maintenance and repairs as needed to make sure encroaching structures, driveways and culverts function properly and do not create drainage or access problems on the adjoining District roads. The Ordinance establishes specific ways for property owners to work with the District regarding their encroachments, and sets out methods and time periods for notification, response and consideration of situations requiring maintenance or repair.

The second part of the Ordinance addresses requirements and procedures for constructing or improving an encroachment onto a District public roadway. The procedures begin with an updated Encroachment Permit Application describing the planned construction or improvement. The District's General Manager then reviews the Application and, if acceptable, provides specifications and requirements for the planned work. The Encroachment Permit is issued upon completion of the work to the District's standards. This Ordinance also specifies the criteria that the District will consider when issuing Encroachment Permits for authorized uses of District Property that do not interfere with the District's uses for providing public services.

Ordinance 5 will be read and considered at the next two Regular Meetings of the District's Board of Directors: Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 a.m. and Saturday, November 14th at 10:30 a.m., both at Fire Station 44, 6109 Quartz Dr., El Dorado, CA 95623. Come to the meetings to find out more about Ordinance 5, what it means to you and what it means for our community.