Water Transmission Line Right-of-Way Safety Guide

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) acquired property to construct, operate and maintain a water transmission line in the San Joaquin Valley. We refer to this property as the SFPUC right-of-way (ROW). Staff of Hetch Hetchy Water and Power (HHWP), a division of the SFPUC, is responsible for patrolling, operating, maintaining, repairing, and replacing components of over 160 miles of pipeline in this ROW. These facilities are located within the SFPUC ROW between Oakdale and Tesla, east of the Altamont Pass, and supply 85 percent of the water used by more than 2.6 million people in the Bay Area. HHWP wants to work with our adjoining neighbors to ensure ROW encroachments do not threaten HHWP's ability to quickly access or repair these critical facilities.

Through individual property deeds, neighbors have the ability to cross the SFPUC ROW, produce agricultural crops and take advantage of other benefits as provided for in their deed, as long as these improvements do not affect HHWP’s ability to operate and maintain these facilities. In exchange, many deeds provide HHWP the ability to use existing roads maintained by the property owners to access these facilities.

Though not required, HHWP requests that neighbors contact us when work is performed on the ROW and within the rights of their deeds, to ensure that the proposed use does not interfere with the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of these facilities.

HHWP will issue a permit documenting the approved use. A permit is mutually beneficial because it provides a detailed description of what has been allowed and the conditions under which the improvements may remain or may need to be removed. But more importantly, HHWP wants to assure the proposed work does not present a safety hazard, or risk damage to HHWP facilities. For improvements not specified under the existing deed, HHWP will work individually with our neighbors toward allowing improvements as long as they do not interfere with the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of these facilities.

If you live along the ROW that includes both our water and power transmission lines, please be sure to review our informational document, Hetch Hetchy Water and Power, High Voltage Power Line and Facility Right-of-Way Safety Guide.

We appreciate your calls when there is an issue on the ROW. Though HHWP staff patrol the ROW, our greatest assets are our adjoining neighbors. Please be sure to call HHWP at 209-989-2114 to address the following concerns:

- Trash dumped on the ROW
- HHWP facilities tagged with graffiti or vandalized
- Vegetation concerns

For emergencies, such as leaks or down power lines, call us immediately at 209-989-2199.

Remember, work safely and before you dig, call USA at 811 or 800-227-2600.

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