

SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS IN SANITARY SEWER

The sanitary sewer that leaves your home is transported by pipes and pumps to the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District treatment plant. This network of pipes is managed by the cities and Central Weber Sewer. Your connection and the smaller pipe are managed by Hooper City and the larger pipes called trunklines and the treatment plant is managed by Central Weber Sewer. In recent years a growing problem is taxing this infrastructure and we are asking for your help to find a better less expensive solution for our community.

Sanitary sewer systems are sized to handle sanitary sewer, not storm water. Recently, a very large amount of storm water entered the sanitary sewer trunklines causing sewerage backups into homes. This was an unsanitary and financially damaging situation to the residents of those homes. Much of this excess water was from sump pumps that are discharging into the sanitary sewer system. This is a community problem, as the sump pumped water came from both effected homes and homes that did not suffer sewerage backups. One sump pump may seem insignificant, but please consider that a single normal sized pump (10 gallons per minute) running continuously can generate as much water as 40 or more homes do from the normal sanitary sewer drains. State law and Hooper City ordinances prohibit the connection of storm sewer to the sanitary sewer including sump pump discharges.

Connecting a sump pump to sanitary sewer drains may be simple and inexpensive initially, but it is impractical to you and the community in the long run. This is because it is relatively clean water, storm water does not need to be processed and treated like sanitary sewer. If the system were redesigned to handle sump pump discharges, significantly more infrastructure would need to be built immediately. In the area affected by the recent sewerage backups alone, this would mean an expense estimated at over \$18,000,000 for building new pipes and pumps. In addition, such increases in flow would likely cause a major treatment plant expansion and Hooper City may require additional infrastructure. The last major treatment plant expansion cost \$150,000,000. These costs would be paid by you in the form of increased rates and taxes. Consider the possibility of your monthly sewer rates and annual sewer dedicated property taxes doubling immediately.

If you have a sump pump to remove groundwater from your basement, observe where the discharge goes. See the figure below for information on proper connections. If you are unsure if your sump pump is connected correctly call Hooper City to schedule an inspection. Although fines for illegal sump pump connections are allowed by state law, Hooper City is committed to helping the community solve this problem with the least impact to our citizens. Hooper City will not issue any fines to any citizen who requests an inspection of their sump pump with an intention of correcting any problems found. Hooper City prohibits the connection of sump pumps to sanitary sewer on all new construction, and we will be monitoring sewer pipe flows and searching for illegal connections of sump pumps. Fines of up to \$10,000.00 may be imposed if illegal connections are discovered.

