Overview
The Desal Link project will connect key community water sources by installing an underground pipeline between the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant and water mains connected to the Cater Water Treatment Plant. This new pipeline will enable desalinated water to reach our entire service area while enhancing system resiliency and improving water quality.

Desalinated water will connect to more people. Up until now, only residents and businesses from the waterfront up to about Micheltorena Street have had access to desalinated water. The Desal Link project will connect desalinated water to our main water distribution hub - the Cater Water Treatment Plant.

Quick Facts

**When**
Fall 2021 - Fall 2022
7:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays

Some night work will occur to reduce impacts to local businesses.

**Where**
Work will start near Garden and Mission Streets and proceed toward the Desalination Plant (approximately 2 miles) along Garden, Sola, Olive, Ortega, Calle Cesar Chavez, and Yanonali Streets.

**How**
Crews will work in 3 block sections for about 6 weeks per section. Each area will be closed to traffic and parking while crews work in the trench to install the new pipeline below other utility lines. Local access will be maintained, but expect driveway access restrictions during active construction.

Funding
The project will be paid for primarily from disaster settlement funds and available Water Fund reserves. The City will not need to generate additional rate revenue for this project.
How Does This Help Our Community?
The Desal Link project improves resiliency by connecting our desalinated and surface water supplies.

This helps ensure that even during an extreme emergency, we can meet water demand throughout Santa Barbara.

After the Desal Link project, all residents can enjoy desalinated water that is naturally softer and has fewer minerals - resulting in reduced hard water and improved taste.

Homeowner & Business Considerations

**Trenching:** The new Desal Link pipeline will be installed in a new trench in the street underneath existing utilities. To ensure that private sewer laterals and water line connections are maintained, the City is taking the following steps:

1. **PRE Construction**
   - Public and private sewer line video inspections will be performed before construction, and no service disruptions will occur. Videos will be available to property owners upon request.
   - Sewer lines will be visually inspected during construction. If lateral pipes are impacted, the City’s contractor will repair pipes within the trench. In some areas, water lines and sewer mains will be replaced. There will be some water service disruptions. Detailed information will be provided to affected property owners and residents prior to this work.

2. **CONSTRUCTION**
   - Sewer lines will be inspected via video after construction, and no service disruptions are expected. New water lines will be pressure tested, flushed, and tested for water quality.

3. **POST Construction**

**Parking:** During construction, parking on the active 3-block street section will be restricted.

**Work Hours:** Most work will occur during business hours to avoid nighttime noise. To keep access to businesses open, some work will occur at night in commercial areas.

*resources vary by year and rainfall amounts

For more information, please contact:
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