

## Brian Helminger

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**From:** Bryan Benn <bbenn@seepipe.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 6, 2018 10:35 AM  
**To:** 'Brian Helminger'  
**Subject:** RE: Heart of the Valley Sonar report

Brian,

Below are my responses in [Blue](#), thanks again for the call today. If there is anything further that you have question or need any further descriptions of my responses please let me know.

Thanks again for the opportunity!

**Bryan Benn - Operations Manager**

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**From:** Brian Helminger <brian.helminger@hvmsd.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2018 10:51 AM

**To:** bbenn@seepipe.com

**Subject:** Heart of the Valley Sonar report

Bryan:

I'm writing to follow up on your inspection report for the three barrel siphons that were radar inspected.

Given the difficulties in inspecting the siphons it was important for us to identify any structural defects and/or infiltration that may be occurring in the siphons. The written report details the findings of deposited debris along the top and bottom of each siphon route.

Based on your review of the results – did you encounter any structural deficiencies within the siphons or anything that appeared to show clear water infiltration within the siphons? [No major inflow/infiltration was witnessed during the inspection. Small amounts of infiltration would be very hard to identify but based on inspection data no I/I has been identified. To further think about I/I, the 6" and 16" lines were diverted to force additional flow through the 32" line and during that process nobody identified notable flow at the downstream manhole.](#)

Did any of the images of the siphons raise any concerns about the condition or long term viability of the siphons? We are currently studying the interceptor and creating an action plan for the entire route of interceptor. As a major component of the interceptor system we want to know the siphons are in a condition to continue in long term daily service and should not be a concern in the immediate future. [R&R identified some debris that's attached to the top/bottom of the siphons during the inspections. This debris is a common occurrence and identified as a normal condition. The minimal amount identified, should be controlled through a maintenance program but no visible wall protrusions or intrusions encountered. No inspection data led inspectors to doubt the pipes structural capacities or future problems.](#)

In regard to your other clients with siphons – how frequently is the industry standard for having them inspected? Or do your customers tend to be reactionary and wait for a problems to be observed before calling? [In the past siphons aren't something that anyone has listed as a maintenance item. Typically folks don't want to touch siphons if they believe they are working. Once we inspect siphons there is a realization of why other problems exist/happening or problems with plugged barrels that are believed to be working properly. Most city's self-determine a PM program and are working to](#)

maintain the lines. Since effective/complete siphon inspections are fairly new in the sewer world the PM programs are still being tested. A few cities that we have re-inspected have found new issues that their routine PM hasn't been able to handle. Specialized cleaning has been needed due to different circumstances. Each siphon area is unique and there is no SOP that will work for each due to the varying conditions.

Are there any anomalies or areas of concern that may have been encountered and we should be aware of? We are aware of the debris and ragging in the large barrel due to insufficient normal flow velocities. No, per our discussion. The large diameter siphon line appears to not be used on a daily basis which has led to settled/attached FOG and other debris. The lackadaisical flow that enters and exits this siphon doesn't seem adequate to carry debris to the outlet which can cause hydraulic problems in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to our questions. I have this item on our agenda for the next Commission meeting and would like to be able to address the initial concerns from our Commissioners.

## **Brian Helminger**

**District Director**

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