



Perris News

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City Uses New Technology to Replace Aging Sewer Lines

The City of Perris installed 270 feet of new, below-ground sewer piping this week at San Jacinto Avenue and D Street—just south of the City Hall Campus.

But the work required no bulldozers or graders or massive trenches to open the way for the installation. The City employed a new technique known as “pipe bursting” to get the job done quicker and cheaper than previously used methods.

“It’s state-of-the-art technology,” said Michael Morales, the City’s capital improvements manager. Pipe bursting works like this:

A hydraulic machine pulls a tough, flexible pipe that looks similar to PVC through the inside of the existing pipe. In

Perris, the old pipe was made of concrete and had deteriorated and needed replacement. As the new pipe snakes its way through the old pipe, it bursts the concrete from the inside. The discarded concrete then is removed and taken away for scrap.



A worker readies the machine that will snake new flexible piping inside an existing concrete pipe near Perris City Hall.



The pipe-bursting process in action.

The flexible pipe is pulled along at one foot per minute. It should last at least 50 years and because it is flexible, earthquakes won’t damage or destroy it.

In the case of the Perris project, the new pipe was installed in less than a day. Morales said that using previous techniques—including trenching, removing dirt and refilling the trench with new dirt and compacting it—would normally take at least three days.

The cost of installing the new sewer pipe totaled about \$20,000. An identical job would have cost \$26,000 using the older technique.