

Information Brief

Lancaster Finds Clay Pipe and Joints Are Not Fragile

- 24" Pipe Left Unsupported
- 2 Months After Culvert Washout
- 500,000 gallons per day flow
- No leaks, no breaks



CLAY PIPE IS NOT FRAGILE

The photograph below shows a section of Lancaster, California sewer line, consisting of 24" bell & spigot clay pipe. When a heavy rain and flash flood caused a culvert to washout, it took away the supporting bedding. The pipe was left unsupported for 2 months, while the city evaluated the situation and designed remediation. The force of the rushing water and of the escaping bedding did not cause the pipe to crack. And the joints held the entire time, carrying 500,000 gallons of sewage per day without any leaks.

Holds Up Under Stress

"Some people thought clay pipe might be fragile. But this showed that it holds up very well."

Bruce Katz
Maintenance Lead
City of Lancaster, California



- No support after bedding washed out
- Pipe & joint left unsupported
- No leaks & no breaks after 2 months

A KEY CONCERN RESOLVED

Previously a concern about clay pipe and its joints was that they were fragile. But this real world stress test shows the opposite. Modern clay pipe is made with vastly improved manufacturing and quality control methods. These meet or exceed industry specifications – and the expectations of design and maintenance professionals worldwide.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

We have additional information on NCPI-certified training programs to help your contractors and inspectors install your clay pipe design correctly, so you get all the benefits you expect. For additional information, please contact us.



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