



City of
OAKLAND
California

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City of Oakland & OpenOakland Promote New Website to Help Prevent Flooding

Adopt a Drain in Preparation for Rain

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland announced a new **Adopt a Drain** website that empowers smart phone and computer users to adopt City storm drains. The Oakland Public Works Agency, partnering with local volunteer technologists from OpenOakland, developed the website app to help volunteers adopt drains and help prevent flooding by keep their storm drains clean and clear.

To adopt one or more of the City’s more than 10,000 storm drains, volunteers can visit adoptadrainoakland.com, enter an address and choose the drain(s) they would like to adopt in that geographic area. Adopters can alert the City of maintenance needs at the onset, allowing the City to respond rapidly and preempt damaging and costly flooding.

“This website is an exciting new way for volunteers to connect with us,” said Brooke A. Levin, Interim Director of Public Works. “It makes adoption of your neighborhood storm drain easy, providing the community with added storm protection. We hope the website will increase the number of volunteers dedicated to keeping storm drains clear and to help reduce flooding on public and private property during storm events.”

By keeping storm drains clear, volunteers help prevent flooding of roads and sidewalks during winter storms, enabling the City to focus its resources on other critical storm-related issues. Keeping drains clear throughout the year also boosts water quality in our streams, lakes, estuary and bay by reducing the amount of debris and trash flowing through the storm drains and into our waterways.

The **Adopt a Drain** website concept was adapted from Boston’s “Adopt a Hydrant.” Designed by 2011 Code for America Fellow Erik Michaels-Ober, that Boston website enables citizens to claim responsibility for digging out fire hydrants after snow storms. The tool has been re-purposed to apply to municipal property ranging from tsunami sirens in Honolulu, to sidewalks in Portland and now storm drains here at home.

Volunteers can adopt other public assets such as parks, creeks and streets through Oakland’s **Adopt a Spot** program. More information and other volunteer opportunities are posted at www.oaklandadoptaspot.com. Anyone can report storm drain and other City maintenance needs via the Public Works Call Center Report a Problem:

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