

Hydrant Installation Permit Requirements

City of Santa Cruz Water Department

In addition to complying with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department's (SCWD) Standard Specifications, latest revision, regarding the construction of fire hydrants, applicant must receive approval of fire hydrant location prior to beginning construction. Approval is on a case by case basis and shall include City-approved plans, City and/or County encroachment (street opening) permits, and field verification by the fire agency and SCWD.

In general, the following criteria shall be met:

1. General Location Requirements:
 - A. Hydrant lateral length shall be minimized by locating on the short side of the water main.
 - B. Hydrant head shall not be allowed within a curb-line projection to avoid conflicts should the curb be extended in the future.
 - C. Where hydrant will be located behind the sidewalk or outside of concrete area, hydrant shall be positioned at the center of a minimum 36"x36"x4" concrete pad with 6"x6"-W4xW4 reinforcement.
 - D. Location shall have minimal impact on neighborhood parking sites.
 - E. When permissible, mid-block locations shall be placed at property lines. When this is not possible, property owners shall be notified to establish public relations and acceptance of hydrant location.
2. Setbacks/Offsets/Clearances:
 - A. For sidewalks wider than 6', center hydrant 9" behind back of curb. For sidewalks less than 6', hydrant position must be approved by the appropriate City and County agencies including City Water Department, City or County Public Works Department, applicable fire protection agency.
 - B. For all installations, a minimum of 3' radius around all sides of hydrant shall be clear of private property lines, walls, poles, or any other vertical obstructions to facilitate fire agency hookup. Plans shall show relevant parcel boundaries, public or private right of ways and easements.
 - C. If an easement is required for the hydrant location and clearances, the applicant shall prepare the easement using the City's format and language and obtain any necessary survey information. The City shall review and approve the easement before it is finalized.
 - D. For all installations in sidewalks, a minimum of 4' clear sidewalk width around one side of the hydrant shall be maintained for A.D.A. compliance.
 - E. Center hydrant head a minimum of 10' from driveway pans.
 - F. Location shall be outside the drip line of existing mature trees, consider proximity of young trees. Location shall be set back 4' minimum from mature shrubs, consider proximity of young shrubs.