



Case Study

Organization
San Bernardino County
Public Works Department

Location
San Bernardino County
California

Industry
Public Works

San Bernardino County Takes Quick Inventory with GIS

Like all public works operations, the San Bernardino County Public Works Department manages all citizen services. Two of those services require the monitoring and maintenance of the county flood control channels and basins that snake through the county to keep it clear of obstructions. Recently, a state mandate served to remind the department that a tool to create quick asset inventories was right at staff fingertips.

What Did They Do?

San Bernardino County Flood Control District channels, which extend from the eastern base of the San Bernardino Mountains to the westernmost edge of the county, are the main arteries into which flows all water from county storm drains and basins as well as runoff from the local mountains. When drains along the channels become clogged by leaves and other debris, the flooding hazard increases. California ordered San Bernardino County to inventory the thousands of side drains that flow into the flood control channels within two years—an operation that typically requires hiring land surveyors to obtain a GPS location for each side drain connection. But Ryan Hunsicker, PLS, GISP, San Bernardino County Public Works survey division chief, was surprisingly at ease about the task. He'd just discovered Collector for ArcGIS®, a field collector app that not only was already available in the county's ArcGIS™ Online subscription but also replicates a surveyor's workflow for pennies on the dollar. Hunsicker realized that he could use county staff from another Public Works division who were available. With the easy-to-use Collector for ArcGIS application, staff quickly collected many of the side drain locations within the flood control district channels.

“Collector focused the direction of our county personnel and set us on a course to complete a critical inventory before the deadline.”

Ryan Hunsicker
PLS, GISP, San Bernardino
County Public Works
Survey Division Chief





One of the drains that could potentially be obstructed by street litter.

Walking along the main channel with a smartphone loaded with Collector, the county staff collected the location, a photo, and the attributes of San Bernardino County's side drain connections. Each worker input the core data required by the mandate, tapping the screen no more than seven times to enter information for each drain into the system. Within weeks, staff had stored the data for thousands of side drains in the department's ArcGIS Online database, primed for display in map reports for the state.

Do You Need This?

If you need to take a quick inventory of assets, yes, you do. Collector for ArcGIS plugs right into the ArcGIS Online universe and synthesizes most of the work that typically complicates inventorying. Using the Collector for ArcGIS app saved San Bernardino County hundreds of dollars per hour by using available county staff and hardware.

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