

# **DRAINAGE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Public Works Agency  
Roads & Transportation**  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1620



## **NATURAL DRAINAGE FLOW**

In general, drainage flow is the ability for water to flow from higher elevation to lower elevation along a natural drainage path or through a drainage structure that will then drain to a river and/or stream, which eventually drains to a larger body of water. Natural drainage flow cannot be blocked or diverted, nor may the flow be increased from one property to another. The natural flow of surface water also cannot be diverted.

## **FLOODING WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY**

If flooding occurs within private property, the property owner should determine the cause. If the cause might be due to a plugged drainage structure that is within the public road right-of-way (ROW), contact Ventura County Public Works Agency – Roads & Transportation (VCPWA-RT) Operations and Maintenance Division. It is suggested that photos and/or video be taken to document the flooding. If the flooding was a result of the adjacent property owner(s) changing natural drainage flow, contact the property owner. VCPWA-RT has no jurisdiction over, nor the authority to resolve this matter.

## **DRAINAGE STRUCTURES MAINTAINED BY THE VCPWA-RT**

All drainage structures that are within public road ROW that convey drainage flow either under, over, or adjacent to the road are maintained by VCPWA-RT. Larger flood-control facilities are maintained by the Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection District (VCPWA-WP). Drainage structures are maintained on a routine basis and occasionally more frequently during rain storm events to minimize the impact of flooding.

## **DRAINAGE STRUCTURES WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Drainage structures on private property are the property owner's responsibility to maintain. VCPWA-RT only maintains drainage structures within public road ROW.

## **REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES**

- ❖ VCPWA-RT Operations and Maintenance Division: (805) 672-2131.
- ❖ VCPWA-WP Operations and Maintenance Division: (805) 654-2001.