

February 14, 2025

RE: Water Main Break Forces Closure of RLA

Dear Rancho Los Alamitos Community,

Early last Friday morning, there was a break on a water line owned and maintained by the City of Long Beach in the Bixby Hill neighborhood where we are located as well, causing significant flooding and damage. While we are relieved that Rancho Los Alamitos' historic house, buildings, and gardens are largely unaffected and all of our animals are safe, the break created a sinkhole and other safety hazards that require us to temporarily close to the public. City workers and contractors are accessing the break through the Rancho property and are using our parking lots to stage building materials. Like many of our neighbors, we are in recovery mode and, at this time, we do not have an estimated timeline for repairs. We anticipate remaining **closed at least through mid-March** and will update you as we are able.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to our neighbors whose lives have been upended by the destruction of their homes and vehicles. In challenging moments like these, the strength of the Bixby Hill community shines through. We deeply appreciate the kindness and support extended to our staff as well as the hard work of City workers and contractors who are diligently repairing the water main and addressing the damage throughout the neighborhood.

We will provide updates via email, our website, and social media as more information becomes available, and look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Rancho soon. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Christine E. Petit, PhD  
Interim Executive Director