mydesert.com
THE DESERT SUN PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

September 15, 2009

More street flooding in L.A. as another water main breaks

City News Service

Yet another water main rupture caused some street flooding in the Jefferson Park area of Los Angeles today.

The main ruptured under Exposition Boulevard, near 11th Avenue, according to a Department of Water and Power spokeswoman, who said that water to five or six customers was shut off and that repair crews were sent to the site.

The flooding on Exposition between Western Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard was reported by Los Angeles police before 1 a.m.

Water rose through cracks in the street near Department of Water and Power Building 39 on Exposition just west of Degnan, reaching curb level, an RMG News camera crew reported. Exposition was blocked off between Degnan and Crenshaw.

Today's rupture was the latest in a rash that has raised concerns about the state of the city's water pipe network.

An 8-inch-diameter water main broke Saturday on Melrose Avenue near Fairfax High School. Another ruptured Friday in the Vermont Knolls area of South Los Angeles. Two 6-inch water lines broke in the Fairfax District on Sept. 9. A 6-inch main broke Sept. 8, causing a sinkhole that partially swallowed a fire truck just east of Laurel Canyon Boulevard in Valley Village. And a 64-inch trunk line installed in 1914 broke in Studio City Sept. 5, shutting down Coldwater Canyon Avenue for a week.

Los Angeles City Council members said last week they intended to monitor ongoing upgrades to 7,000 miles of city pipelines. Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents Studio City and Valley Village, described the ruptures as "a wake-up call."