


# Business Report

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Ric Ochoa, Owner of So-Cal Pizza, holds a delicious pepperoni pizza.

## New Business Spotlight: So-Cal Pizza

So-Cal Pizza is open and here to satisfy everyone's pallet, offering a wide variety of pizzas, sandwiches, pastas and appetizers. Long-time Norwalk resident Ric Ochoa is the proud business owner; he decided to open his own business after working in the food and restaurant business for over 20 years. Ric originally

started his business in La Mirada three years ago before deciding to relocate to Norwalk. So-Cal Pizza has approximately 22 full-time and part-time employees, many of them family members and Norwalk residents. This restaurant has a game room and is a convenient place for friends and family to gather and watch a sporting event. (This place also offers the 36-slice Monster Pizza.)

So-Cal Pizza is located at 12253 Imperial Hwy. in the Civic Center Plaza. For more information, please call (562) 868-3252.



New employment laws could affect your business day-to-day operations and company policies in 2013. Some new laws are in the following areas: religion and reasonable accommodation, social media and personal passwords, inspection of personnel records, itemized wage statements/temporary service employers, workers' compensation reform, prevailing wage and unemployment insurance overpayment and penalties.

To learn about these new laws, download a free copy of "An Overview of New 2013 Laws Affecting California Employers" from the California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) website at [www.CalChamber.com](http://www.CalChamber.com).

CalChamber is a non-profit organization committed to providing information and services to help California businesses survive and thrive while complying with complex laws and regulations.

## Important Information: Special Event Permits



Are you thinking about hosting a special event to promote your business? If so, conducting such an activity may require a City issued special event permit. A special event permit may be needed for a short-term activity, such as a business promotion or grand opening event, that may involve entertainment, excess signage, or sound amplification, as well as the potential for a substantial number of participants or spectators.

A completed special event application and supplemental documents should be filed with the City's Finance Department at least 30 days prior to the proposed event. The purpose of the special event permit is to maintain a safe environment and to ensure that the public interests are protected. For more information, please contact the City's Finance Department at (562) 929-5713.



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

As responsible businesses, we all need to do our part to make sure chemicals and debris do not end up in our stormdrains. Remember, all water in stormdrains flow to the ocean.

**Here are some simple tips you can use to be part of the environmental solution:**

- Sweep or vacuum frequently in lieu of hosing to keep your business clean. This will also help conserve water.
- Keep the area around your trash receptacles clean.
- Properly label, use, store and dispose all hazardous products including empty containers.

Call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit the website at [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) for more information.



## Norwalk City Council

Mayor Cheri Kelley Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola  
Councilmember Mike Mendez Councilmember Marcel Rodarte Councilmember Leonard Shryock

# Southern California Gas Company Installs Advanced Meters



The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) will be installing advanced meters throughout its service territory, including Norwalk. The advanced communications device will transmit gas usage data from a customer's home or business, and make the usage information available online for the customer by the next business day. No personally-identifiable information will be transmitted, and gas usage information will be encrypted for added security.

SoCalGas will notify customers a few weeks prior to their advanced meter installation. The installations will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will be performed during normal business hours. In most cases, customers will not need to be present, and should not have an interruption to their natural gas service.

For more information, customers can visit SoCalGas' advanced meter website, [www.socalgas.com/advanced](http://www.socalgas.com/advanced) or by calling toll-free at (800) 427-2200 or for Spanish, please call (800) 342-4545.

# City Identifying Sewer and Water System Needs, Maintenance Critical to Public Health and Safety



Norwalk's sewer and water systems are old and deteriorating. Most of Norwalk's water and sewer lines were built in the 1950s and reaching the end of their anticipated lifespan. The City's sewer system includes aging clay pipes and other outdated infrastructure; the City's water pipes are also outdated.

Currently, the City has been working to identify sewer system needs and deficiencies. So far, the City has visually inspected nearly one third of the sewer system through closed circuit television to assess the condition of sewer lines and mains. The City has also developed a Sewer System Management Plan that identifies sewer system improvements needed to repair, upgrade and replace broken and undersized sewer mains. Proper sewer system maintenance is critical to preventing sewage spills and overflows that can threaten public health and place the City at risk for costly State fines and environmental lawsuits.

In regards to the Norwalk Municipal Water System (NMWS), the City will soon be embarking on a comprehensive water master plan that will outline deficiencies in the water system and produce a capital improvement program that would make the water system more efficient by utilizing available groundwater, and ultimately connecting the system for enhanced water reliability and emergency back up capabilities.

Unfortunately, without repairs and maintenance, Norwalk's sewer and water system will continue to deteriorate. In both cases, limited funding is available for necessary repairs and improvements. It is the City's responsibility to make necessary repairs and upgrades to ensure the health and safety of the community. The City will continue to keep the community informed about Norwalk's efforts to address sewer system needs.

For more information, please visit the City's website at [www.norwalkca.gov](http://www.norwalkca.gov).

## NORWALK BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM



The Norwalk Business Watch Program was instituted to support and protect businesses and community interests, and to make the City a safer place to live and work. Business Watch provides an opportunity for business owners and managers to form an alliance with each other and serve as extended eyes and ears for law enforcement. It builds support groups for the purpose of sharing information and getting educated on crime prevention measures. To participate in the Norwalk Business Watch Program or for additional information, please contact Kathleen Palomares, Community Safety Partnership at (562) 929-5685 or email [PublicSafety@norwalkca.gov](mailto:PublicSafety@norwalkca.gov).

### Interesting Sewer System Facts:

- Declining City revenues have limited the funds available for sewer system improvements.
- Recent state law mandates that the City take action soon to address sewer system needs, in order to limit/prevent sewer overflows/spills.
- If a City is found to be inadequately maintaining a sewer system that causes a spill/overflow, the State may impose fines, especially in cases where such sewage spills could ultimately reach the river and ocean waters.
- The City of Norwalk has worked hard to maintain city services, including the City's sewer system, despite declining revenues and state takeaways.

### Interesting City Water System Facts:

- The Norwalk Municipal Water System (NMWS) is a City owned and operated water company, and one of five water utility providers for the City.
- The NMWS consists of 5,400 service water connections, serving 18,372 customers.

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