



Ribline™

Case Study

Ribline Trenchless, Structural Pipe Rehabilitation- Manteca, California Project

A crumbling sewer in Manteca, California, recently had local public works officials searching for a viable solution. An important 36-inch reinforced concrete pipe was severely corroded after decades of use. It was a perfect situation for trenchless sewer rehabilitation except for one important detail – the pipe had deteriorated to the point that it was unsuitable as a host for most of trenchless repair methods.

“We were concerned that the pipe was so fragile that excavating around it would damage it to the point that it would break or collapse,” explained Phil Govea, P.E., the project manager for the City of Manteca.

Clearly, the situation called for a trenchless technology that would provide structural integrity. After evaluating several trenchless options, the city’s public works planners chose Ribline for the job.

“We looked at cured-in-place methods and some sliplining technologies. We ruled out cured-in-place because it did not provide a level of structural support that we felt was sufficient,” said Govea. “Some of the sliplining methods would



disturb the pipe too much and cause it to fracture.”

One of the options available to Manteca was Ribline. Ribloc, an Australian company that has installed some 1.3 million linear feet of the product worldwide, makes Ribline. Unlike other sliplining products, Ribline installs

easily and provides excellent structural support. The pipe is made of imbedded steel reinforced high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Its smooth interior surface resists the chemical corrosion usually found in sewers and the completed encased steel ribs give the pipe superior structural strength.

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Ribline also provided an important additional benefit. Ribline can be installed quickly and quietly, and with low flow in the pipeline.

“We have pumping stations upstream from the damaged pipe, so we were able to control the flow and avoid the need for bypass pumping,” said Govea. “We saved a lot of money and inconvenience by not having to do bypass pumping as you do with cured-in-place and other methods.”

The installation repaired more than 300 linear feet of pipe in less than two days. Ribline arrives at the jobsite on a reel. The installation equipment is positioned at the access point and spirally winds out the pre-manufactured profile at a diameter small enough to pass through the host pipe. The wraps of profile are extrusion welded together to produce a continuous jointless HDPE liner with high stiffness.



Although there was a slight decrease in interior pipe diameter in the Manteca project (from 36 to 33.5 inches ID), the Ribline pipe has a smooth interior surface that provides excellent hydraulic characteristics, so flow rates were unaffected.

“We definitely think it is an excellent pipe rehabilitation method and we will use it again under the right circumstances,” said Govea.

