

Root Plugs

Any time you have gasket pipe there is a chance for a small leak and sometimes trees or other large vegetation will take advantage of that leak and send roots into the pipeline. The roots continue to grow and eventually will have an effect on water flow.

The pipe line on Ditch 3 between the diversion dam and the splitter box seems to be extra prone to this issue. Several years ago, the water flow had become less and less.

We asked the city to help us by running their pipeline camera down the line and at 300 feet below the Diversion Dam we ran into a blockage.



Digging into the line, we soon discovered a cement block that we did not know existed. Apparently, sometime in the past, there had been a leak at this point in the line. Most likely due to trying to bend the line around a tree. To stop the leak, duct tape and cement was used to stop the leak. That kind of repair does not hold and with a tree right there looking for water, roots soon entered the line and began to expand.



The old cement and portions of the pipe were removed.



A five foot long root plug was found inside the old pipe.



A new section was installed in the line to complete the work.

A few years later, water flow indicated it was time to check for more plugs. Testing showed this section of the line needed to be checked.



A root plug that had to be at least 15' long was found inside the 15" diameter pipe. This was a large root plug. The water flow was much improved after its removal.