

Executive Summary: Monument Protection (Save Our Survey Monuments)

Serving the public for over 40 years, the League of California surveying organizations (LCSO) mission is to standardize the practice of Land Surveying across the State of California. The LCSO monument preservation committee meets monthly to discuss topics related to preserving land survey monuments.

The Problem

Benchmarks and property corner controls are being permanently destroyed at an accelerating rate, particularly in California. These vital infrastructures are lost to history due to Land development; ironically, the activity these infrastructures are meant to support. California State Law dictates the responsibility to preserve, perpetuate and replace. Still, often Surveyors and the public are suddenly having to deal with difficult situations because others have decided to shortcut their civil responsibility. The result is high costs passed to the public (time and money). Too often, having to retrace the relationship between property and its positional control.

The Proposed Solution

The LCSO monument preservation committee is focused on four components to help with this effort. They are as follows

- Outreach
- Preserve
- Perpetuate
- Replace

The answer to this long-sought-out problem first lies in reaching out to the people responsible for protecting land survey monuments. Second, monuments must be located in order to be preserved, and one must know where to conduct land survey research. Third, reporting when a monument will be affected and to whom will be critical to the success of perpetuating them. Lastly, the process related to monuments coordinates being preserved and how to do that.



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Solution # 1 Outreach

This resource is available to every County Surveyor in California, and they are the regional resource for monuments to be protected and perpetuated. The County Surveyor's role is to educate those responsible for professional engineering work per [§6730.2 section \(c\)](#). This includes any department or agency of the state, city, county, city and county, district, or special district. The California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA) has multiple resources available on its website in this regard.

Solution # 2 Preserve

California Land Surveyor Association (CLSA) will be the hub for surveyors, engineers, contractors, and the public to find land survey records online. Most County Surveyors' offices have items accessible in a Geographic Information System (GIS) or online.

Solution # 3 Perpetuate

Coming up with a solution that works across multiple organizations is critical—realizing that public works departments are structured differently. And that's ok. The goal is to ensure that all land survey monuments are shown on construction plans along with a letter that designates the licensed professional responsible for the land surveying work for the planned project.

Solution # 4 Replace

Once monuments have been identified and tied out correctly, the licensed professional is the responsible party who will replace the control monument. Working through your County Surveyor's office is vital to this effort and where you can find out more about your area in California.

Conclusions

Saving Our Survey Monuments (S.O.S.M.) needs to be one of the highest goals in CLSA. We must recognize the importance of licensed professionals and their practice while showcasing their tradecrafts to the next generation. Lastly, promoting S.O.M. will result in recognition for the vital work done by surveyors daily.

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