Presidents Day

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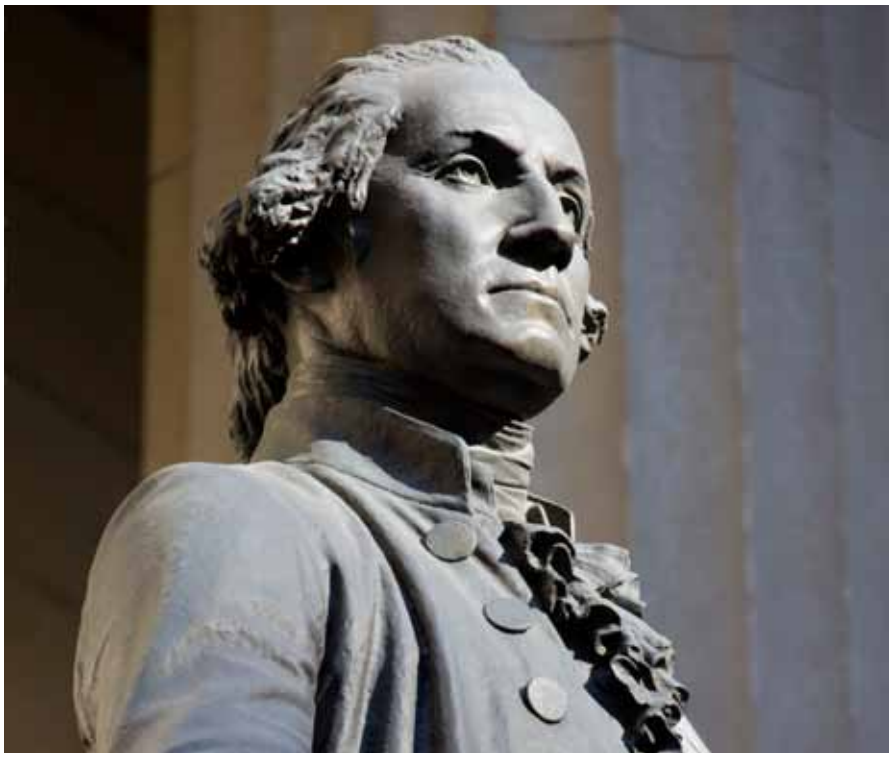
sew´·ẽr sō·ci·ol´ō·gy, *the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships viewed through the eyes of a sewer; specifically, the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective sewer use of organized groups of human beings.*

Most sewer flows are characterized by repeatable diurnal patterns that vary across weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Differences in land use also are apparent, and distractions and disruptions of daily life often can be observed.



This month, we take a look at Presidents Day through the eyes of a sewer.

Originally adopted to celebrate George Washington's birthday, Presidents Day is now celebrated in the United States on the third Monday of each February. Since it is a federal holiday, most government offices and schools are closed, which, in turn, can be observed in sewer use data.

A composite hydrograph of sewer use from a residential area located in Southern California is shown in the figure. Weekdays are shown in green. Saturdays are shown in light blue, and Sundays are shown in darker blue.

Presidents Day and the day before are shown in red. Note the Sunday before Presidents Day looks more like Saturday in terms of sewer use. For many residents with no work or school the next day, there is little impetus to begin preparing for the coming work week on Sunday night. Sewer use on Presidents Day looks more like a weekend than a weekday, until evening when preparations for a shortened work week begin.

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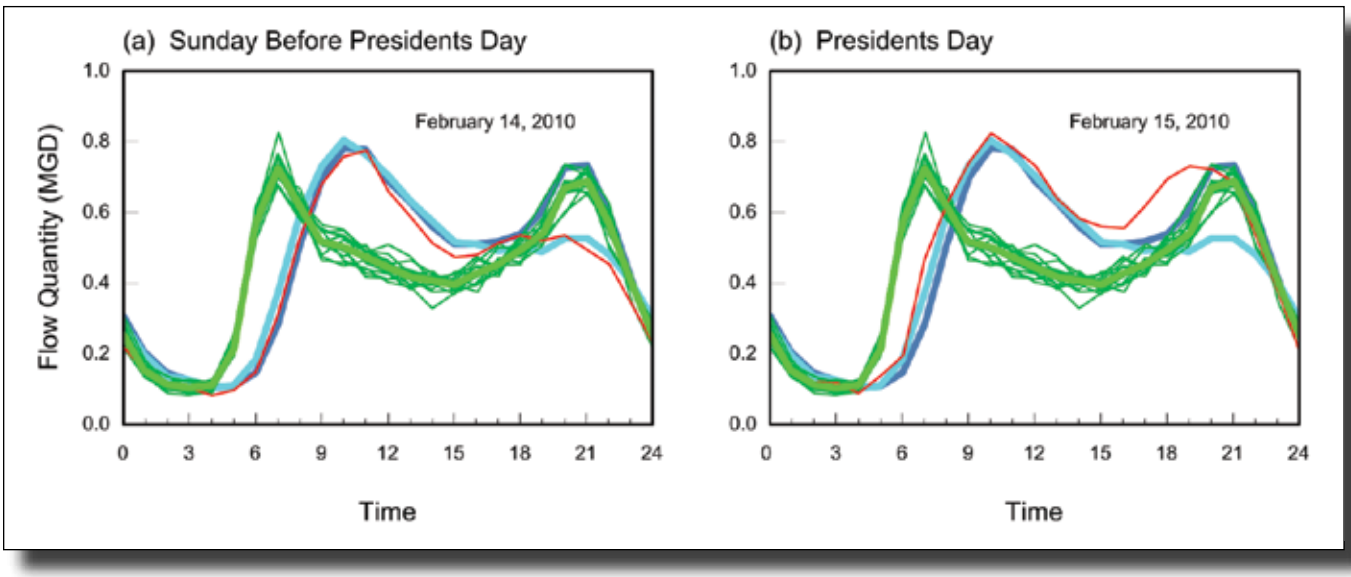
Sewer use patterns during Presidents Day weekend