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Techite pipe material going to fail" before its 50-year life span, said McLaughlin. Dozens of California cities are using similar Techite sewer pipe that could fail, s a i d McLaughlin.

Sebastopol installed the pipe in 1979. The city filed suit in 1999 after industry experts advised that the pipe "is a defective product which is going to fail" before its 50-year life span, said McLaughlin.

standard in the industry for sewer pipe," said McLaughlin. The Techite pipes "are supposed to last 50 years, otherwise why buy them and put 'em in?" said McLaughlin.

Sebastopol installed the pipe in 1979. The city filed suit in 1999

after industry experts advised that the pipe "is a defective product which is

"Suddenly it did," said McLaughlin, referring to last week's failure. The city is proposing to

videotape the whole system, but it would "have to shut down the whole system to do that," said McLaughlin.

A video could reveal where the pipe could blow next time. According to pipe

experts, "You can see a blistering or bubbling effect inside the pipe where the next failure is going to be," said McLaughlin. "This is like a powder keg because they're all over the state."

The city will now file an amended lawsuit citing last week's pipe failure, said McLaughlin.

In last week's incident, "That piece of pipe exploded out there," said McLaughlin. "We feel it is