

Sanitary District No. 5

Tiburon & Belvedere, California



District Manager, Robert L. Lynch • 2001 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920 • (415) 435-1501

Fall News

2011

www.Sani5.org

CHAMPION POWER RODDER A Boon for the Sani 5 Collection System

Sanitary District No. 5's new sewer line cleaning machine, the Champion Power Rodder, is hydraulically driven and mounted on a 2011 Ford F-550 Chassis. And we're ready to roll now that the District's maintenance crew has received the manufacturer's on-site training regarding how to use the rodder safely and effectively.

This rodder truck is designed for efficient and economical rodding (1,400 feet of steel rod) of sanitary ducts and lines, offering continuous hydraulic power for small diameter underground conduit cleaning.



Prior to the acquisition of the rodder truck, Sani 5 had been on a maintenance schedule to clean all of the collection system sewer lines in the Tiburon and Belvedere zones every one to two years. Manager Lynch says with the arrival of the new rodder truck all lines throughout the district will be cleaned on a yearly basis, with particularly troublesome lines cleaned every six months. The members of the Board of Directors appreciate the benefits the District will gain by the ownership of the rodder truck. First, there will be a considerable cost savings realized by no longer requiring the cleaning of over 128,000 feet (24.2 miles) of sewer lines to be outsourced, although many easements will continue to be outsourced due to difficult slopes and accessibility. In the second place, a lower number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) is expected due to the relationship between the frequency of cleaning sewer lines and SSO events, since there will now be fewer obstructed sewer lines throughout the District.

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2011 SEWER REHAB PROJECT CONTRACT AWARDED TO W. R. FORDE ASSOC.

The results from a recent Inflow & Infiltration Study specifically identified several sewer lines in critical need of rehabilitation. The lines to be repaired or replaced are on San Rafael Avenue and Acacia Avenue in Belvedere and Owlswood Lane in Tiburon. Nute Engineering is working closely with Belvedere City Engineer, Bob Branz, for a date in October to begin work when there will not be a conflict with the current undergrounding project on San Rafael Avenue.

Once Sani 5 gets the green light, the entire project is expected to take approximately 45 days to complete. The 4-inch sewer pipe on Acacia Avenue will be replaced with a 6-inch pipe, which will entail reconnecting each homeowner's sewer lateral to the new sanitary sewer line. Although the new connection will not require any action by individual homeowners, they will be notified by Sanitary District No. 5 prior to the event.

MAKE IT LEGAL → → Sewer Lateral Connections and Prohibited Drainage into Our Sanitary Sewer

What are laterals, anyway?

Easy answer: Sewer laterals are private sewer service pipes that get wastewater moving from private homes and buildings via legal connections to the public sanitary sewer main lines. Laterals and the tie-ins to the sewer main are installed and owned by individual property owners, who retain the responsibility to maintain the laterals. It is Sanitary District No. 5's responsibility to operate, maintain, and repair the main sewer lines that provide for common collection and transmission of sewage discharges throughout the Tiburon and Belvedere service area.

to the main sewage treatment plant and treated like sewage, which contributes to higher processing costs and sewer rates for everyone.

MAKE IT LEGAL: Apply for a permit. Permits and inspections are not only required for new tie-ins/hook-ups to Sanitary District No. 5's main sewer lines, but also when renovating or making additions to current dwellings or for repair work on laterals. To make an appointment to have your property inspected or your plans/permits reviewed, please call the District office at 415.435.1501.

History: Ordinance No. 70-1, June 1970, established prohibitions on drainage into sanitary sewers as follows: "No leaders from roofs and no surface drains for rain water shall be connected to any sanitary sewer. No surface or subsurface drainage, rain water, storm water, seepage, cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters shall be permitted to enter any sanitary sewer by any device or method whatsoever."

Why keep it out of the sewers? "It" refers to ground water and run-off from roof drains and all waters referred to above. When this type of drainage ends up in sanitary sewer pipes, the flow is transported

Information & assessments are FREE. Sani 5 will help you end confusion & make it legal. (See below.)

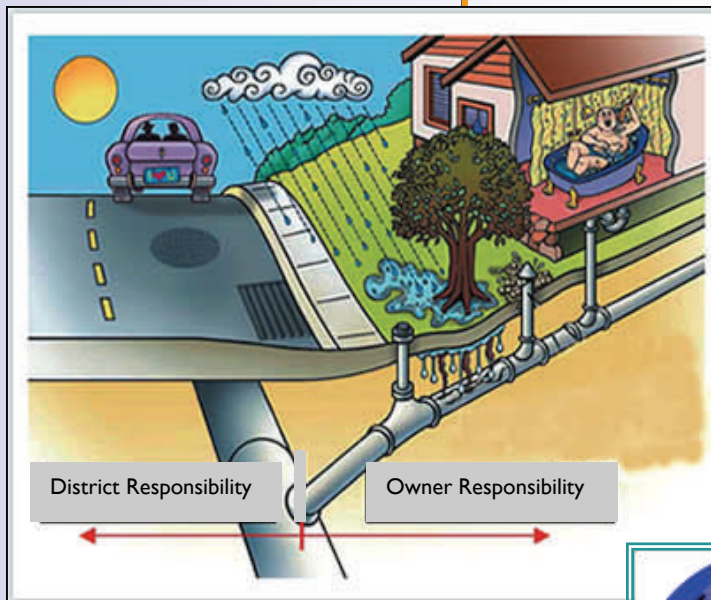
Questions?
Appointments?
Assessments?
Please call (415) 435-1501

ALL THAT AND MORE DOWN THE MAIN?

Of course you care about the environment, and you don't want to be a party to dangerous Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) any more than you want to pollute our beautiful Bay.

It may not have occurred to you that your roof drains and ground water

run-off may be channeled improperly. It could be you have been illegally tapping into sewer laterals and mains, unwittingly putting a burden on the main treatment plant, especially during heavy winter weather.



CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T GO DOWN THE DRAIN?

Sanitary District No. 5 can help you determine if your ground water run-off and roof drains are directed to proper channels.

PLEASE CALL US FOR A QUICK & EASY LOOK: (415) 435-1501



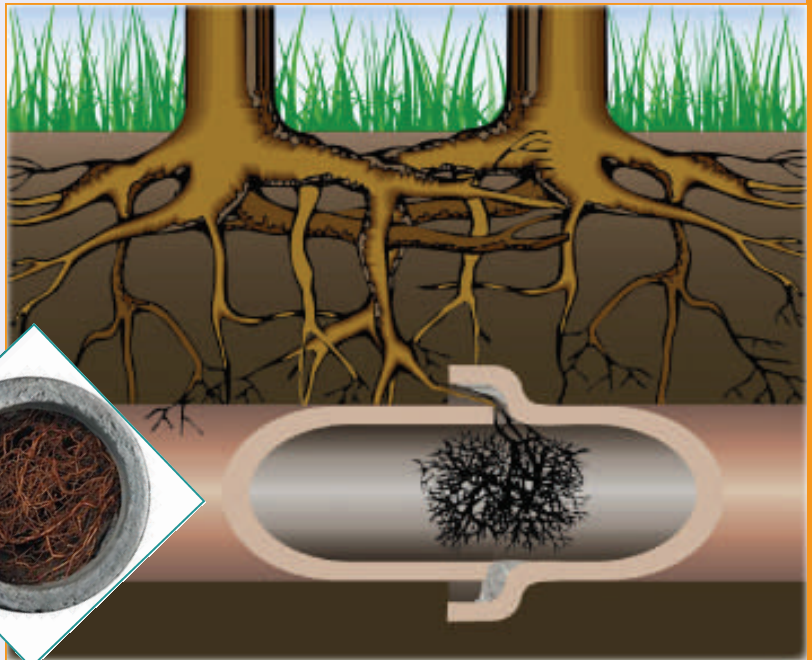
#1 Cause of Sewer System Blockages

ROOTS IN SEARCH OF WATER

The positive attributes of trees are well known, but the ravages of their thirst often times go unnoticed until property owners' complacency is confronted by offensive sewer system blockages. Trees are thirsty creatures, and their roots grow wide and deep, often spreading 25 feet in any direction, ever in search of sources of water. When they find even the smallest entrance through cracks or chips into nutrient rich sewer pipes, it's like they've hit pay dirt in their (your) own backyard. In fact, the prying hair-like root tentacles actually bore into aging sewer pipes causing blockages as they hasten the demise of these older lateral pipes, which are plentiful in Tiburon and Belvedere.

The following are major issues that wreak havoc on all sewer lines, the lateral pipes owned and kept up by property owners (see page 2), and the main lines that Sani 5 operates and maintains:

- Root Intrusion
- FOG (Fats, Oil, & Grease)
- Debris (i.e., cleaning & baby wipes, art or building materials, cat litter, paper towels)



To compound matters, once tree roots infiltrate and expand their growth in sanitary sewer pipes, they act as traps for FOG and debris, making clogs inevitable and sanitary sewer backups probable. Therefore, annual cleaning of your sewer laterals is optimal.

If you're finding it difficult to assess what's best for you to keep lateral sewer pipes running clear, the staff at Sani 5 is available (435-1501) to answer questions and/or meet you at your property to help evaluate your situation and determine the best cost saving alternatives for your specific circumstances — and it's free of charge.

[Summary of the Clean Water Act / 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. \(1972\)](#) • See related article on page 4→

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1977.

Under the CWA, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. Water quality standards have also been set for all contaminants in surface waters.

The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained. EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls discharges.

[Report sewer overflows immediately: 435.1501 • After hours/emergency: 945.4080](#)



2001 Paradise Drive
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NPDES Permit Fees are Going Up 61% for Main Plant & Paradise Cove Plant Due to State Revenues Going Down

NPDES stands for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Sanitary District No. 5 is required to pay annual fees for NPDES permits to operate its Main Treatment Plant and the Paradise Cove Treatment Plant.

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) recently announced that the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a new core regulatory program fee schedule, which increases fees for NPDES permit holders by 60.6 percent and for waste discharge requirements by 24 percent. The fee increases are the result, in part, of the State Legislature's decision to shift tens of millions of dollars of previously General Fund supported basin planning to fee support obtained from permit holders. Reference: casaweb.org. (Also see Clean Water Act on page 3.)

Main Plant Rehabilitation Project Gets Green Light

At a regular Board meeting on September 20, 2011, the Board of Directors of Sanitary District No. 5 unanimously voted to approve the Main Plant Rehabilitation (MPR) Project. The next steps for the District will be to finalize bond funding and move forward with prequalification documentation for prospective wastewater facility contractors. Construction on the main treatment plant, located at 2001 Paradise Drive, is scheduled to begin May 2012 and be completed during the latter part of 2013.

Look for detailed information on the MPR Project in Sani 5's Winter News edition.

