



District Finances

Financial statements are on-line

[Audited financial statements](#) for the District's 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, as well as the District's 2009-2010 [Budget](#) are now posted on the District website: www.sani5.org. You are encouraged to peruse them both.

Declining Fees and Revenues

Sanitary District 5 has been affected by the declining economy. Fees from household connections have declined with the decrease in residential construction, and the State of California will 'borrow' for up to three years, up to 8% of the District's tax based revenue. (Resulting in potential revenue shortfall of up to \$67,000.)

Steps we are taking

Budget cuts:

The District has judiciously pared back non-critical planned capital improve-

ments but maintenance will continue as planned.

"In-sourcing" of large projects :

District staff has saved significantly (over \$500,000) by delivering on large projects using internal resources rather than hiring outside engineering firms to perform the work.

Anticipate 2011 - 2013 Rate Increases

The cost of operations and of capital improvement projects continues to escalate.

While the current rates are (barely) adequate to keep up with increases in operational costs, they do not allow the District to maintain sufficient contingency or capital improvement reserves.

In 2008-2009, the Board of Directors voted **not** to enact the rate increase approved as part of the last 218 process. It did



The State of California will borrow up to \$67,000 of District revenue.

vote to approve the 2009-2010 4% rate increase and is [initiating a 218 process](#) to investigate rate increases which would take effect in 2011 through 2013.



The District will publish the dates of the public forums to discuss these rate increases once the dates have been finalized.

Paradise Drive Treatment Plant is Operational

The District has invested \$1.6 MM on construction of the new Paradise Cove treatment facility and the new Paradise Drive sewer main. [The new facility](#) will serve Paradise Drive residents from Trestle Glen to

Teaberry Lane including the residents of Seafirth who recently decommissioned their private treatment facility and connected to the new forced main.

With the plant now fully operational, the time is

right to become part of the District and enjoy a cleaner, safer and more environmentally sound sanitary service for you and your family.

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Capital Improvements Update:

- **Pipeline repair** - During the last fiscal year 45% (81,000 ft) of all sewer lines were cleaned repaired or replaced at a cost of \$424,000
- **Digester cover replacement** - The District replaced an aging and corroded digester cover at a cost of \$650,000
- **Ongoing and upcoming Capital Improvement efforts include** - Completion of district initiative to video the interior of all lines (we're 95% complete). Continued lining and spot-repair where needed. Ongoing smoke-testing to identify areas where storm or roof drains are plumbed to the sanitary sewer collection system.

Preventing Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

Despite the diligence of the District's maintenance program overflows do still occur. Culprits include diapers and other hygiene products that should not have been flushed down the toilet; fat, oil and grease (FOG) that should not have been poured down the drain and construction debris introduced into the collection system. In short, overflows are usually preventable. Overflow cleanup is costly and has the potential to introduce pathogens into the environment. If an overflow reaches a storm drain or watershed, the District is required to report the incident to environmental agencies, raising the potential for fines or litigation (under provisions of the

Clean Water Act) by environmental watchdog groups. In fact, the District recently settled (for \$17,000) with such a group whose cause of action was based simply on the fact that overflows had occurred.

What YOU can do

Never flush solid objects down the toilets.

Don't use your toilet or sink-drain as a garbage can for household chemicals, dental floss, rags, old sponges, etc.

Never pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink or garbage disposal.

Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and

dishes with a paper towel and dispose of it in the trash.

Use a grease can to collect all your excess fats, oils, and grease.

Cool fats, oils, and grease and pour into the grease can.

Mix oils and grease with other absorbent material like paper towels, kitty litter, or coffee grounds and allow the contents to congeal in the refrigerator or freezer.

Once the grease can is full, place it in the trash along with other absorbent material like paper towels or kitty litter.



Don't worry, this photo was **NOT** taken in Sanitary District 5!

Do you have a Backflow Prevention Device?

If a blockage occurs in the sanitary sewer system, sewage will rise through a manhole and overflow to the surrounding area. However, if your house plumbing is below the level of the overflowing manhole, the sewage can backup through your house side sewer lateral and enter your home through your plumbing

drains. Backflow prevention devices are designed to prevent sewage from entering your home and are mandated by building code as well as District ordinance. When the need for a backflow prevention device is overlooked or ignored the consequences can be devastating.

Please call the District if you need help locating your backflow prevention device.



If you are unable to locate a backflow prevention device on your property, please contact San 5. A backflow prevention device is required District ordinance.

Smoke Testing planned for Fall 2009

During wet weather, when the ground becomes saturated, water that enters the sanitary sewer through cracks and joints in the collection system increases the volume of water that must be treated and has the po-

tential to overwhelm treatment facilities. Roof, landscape and storm drains, improperly plumbed to the sanitary sewer can quickly compound the problem. Starting Fall of 2009, the District will conduct Smoke

Testing of the collection system to identify improperly plumbed drains, so do not be alarmed if you see smoke rising from a roof or storm drain.



Smoke Testing reveals a storm drain improperly plumbed to the sanitary sewer collection system.

Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals

Prescription drugs flushed down the toilet and other chemicals introduced into the Bay Area's wastewater collection systems have been detected in the Bay's estuaries and marine life. Since wastewater treatment plants are generally not equipped to detect or remove the evolving collection of ingredients in this chemical cocktail, it makes more sense to treat the source if possible, rather than to deal with expensive downstream problems.

Please take medication as prescribed and dispose of unused portions properly. Unused medications should be taken to a household hazardous waste disposal center or put in a sturdy, securely sealed container, then in a trash can where children and animals can't reach them.

Keep products in their original containers – Pharmaceutical container caps are typically watertight and child proof.

Solid drugs – Add a small amount of water to a solid drug before recapping to discourage unintended use.

Liquid drugs – Add a small amount of some absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust or flour, to liquid drugs before recapping to discourage unintended use.

Double seal the container – in another container or heavy bag to prevent easy identification of the drug container or to prevent a glass container from breaking.

To reduce the amount of waste pharmaceuticals and personal care products:

Only purchase what you need – Why waste money on pharmaceuticals to just sit on the

shelf and expire over time?

Say "No" to samples – If you are not going to use them, you will only need to dispose of them later.

Stop junk mail – Take your name off mailing lists so you don't receive free sample products, such as pain relievers, lotions, and shampoos. If you don't use them, then you will need to dispose of them later.

Centralize all pharmaceuticals in one location – This may help to limit over purchasing of products you already have.

Read the label – Some products contain mercury-added preservatives; if you see it on the label, find an alternative product.



For more information visit www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org



Environmental Initiatives

Water recycling

With cost estimates approaching \$600,000, limited storage capacity and a lengthy payback period (40+ years), a program to deliver "Title 22" recycled water to the community-at-large is difficult to justify even if funds were available. Undaunted however, the District is pursuing opportunities with individual home-owners where their proximity to its facilities makes it feasible.

Alternative Energy

Although the main plant is located in a south-facing, "solar-power sweet spot," the District's facilities are without sufficient roof-area or adjacent real-estate for the installation of photovoltaic panels to make a meaningful contribution to its energy needs. However, through its participation in PG&E's demand reduction programs and through the use of the methane gas that is a byproduct of opera

tions, the District was able to reduce its utility costs by 1.5% over the previous year.



Help the planet — and your cash flow

Water conservation is critical to help meet the future needs of our communities, and to lessen the strain on our fragile ecosystem. A little water conservation at home can also save you some cash.

12 ways you can reduce water consumption

- Shut off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Don't let the water run when rinsing your dishes. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Adjust your sprinklers so they're watering your lawn—not the sidewalks.
- Run your washing machine only when it's full. This can save up to 1,000 gallons of water per month.
- Use your garbage disposal sparingly, use the trash can.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when it's cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under running water.
- Use organic mulch around plants to retain moisture.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway.
- Shorten your shower time by one or two minutes to save up to 150 gallons of water per month.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If you see it seep into your bowl without flushing you've got a leak. Fix it and you can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Designate one glass for drinking water all day to reduce the number of glasses that need to be washed.



What can YOU do?

Televise your lateral and make repairs.

Clean your lateral regularly

Locate your backflow prevention device and ensure its proper operation

Put Fats, Oil and Grease

(FOG) in the trash where they belong

Compost organic material instead of disposing of it in the garbage disposal.

Don't flush prescription or over-the-counter drugs down the drain.

Don't use your toilet as a garbage can for things like facial tissue, dental floss or hygiene products.



Disposing of fats, oil and grease down the drain can quickly lead to clogs like this! Do your part to keep it out of the sewers.

Tour San 5

Sanitary District 5 invites neighbors and friends to tour our plant on Paradise Drive in Tiburon. The tour will be lead by the District Manager, Bob Lynch, or by the Plant Manager, Tony Rubio. It will include an overview of the system it-

self, and a walking tour of the main elements of the plant. A description of the daily testing and monitoring done by Sanitary District 5 every day will be given, along with an opportunity for questions and answers. We look forward to seeing

you. Please phone the District at 435-1501 to schedule a tour.

