WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT BULLETIN: WINTER 2024-25

www.WestBaySanitary.org

Manager's Corner

Sergio Ramirez
General Manager

As we enter a new year, I'd like to recognize the hard working and dedicated staff at West Bay Sanitary District (District). I see in my daily interactions that they care about their impact on the community and making a difference by providing exceptional service to Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Mateo County, a small portion of Santa Clara County, and the Town of Woodside. We pride ourselves on having one of the best response times to a service request in the Bay Area and 98% customer satisfaction. Our service crews respond to service requests within twenty minutes of receiving a call and our administrative staff has worked with homeowners and contractors on the more efficient automated (and easy to use) on-line permitting system.

Most recently, the District received recognition from the California Water Environment Association by awarding the District with the coveted "Collection System of the Year" award. The award recognizes outstanding preventative maintenance programs, minimal sewer spills, and an excellent "no loss time due to accidents" history. The District's current experience modification (X-Mod) factor used to rate workers' compensation cost is one of the lowest in the State. I am very proud of our staff and the way in which they serve the community.

An exciting project we will be focusing on in 2025 is the new Bayfront Recycled Water Facility behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The new facility will bring recycled water to the Menlo Park and Atherton area and eventually to the Menlo Park Government Center, Burgess Park, as well as East Palo Alto through the Willow Village project. The District broke ground in August 2024 by demolishing the Menlo Park Sanitary District treatment facility which was constructed in the 1940's and retired in the early 1980's. Demolishing the old facility gives way to constructing a one million gallons per day reclamation water facility and distribution system. The new facility will take raw wastewater and convert it to Title XXII clean and clear reusable water for irrigation, cooling towers, and commercial toilet flushing. We are excited to offer this great resource to the community.

We are busy working on many other infrastructure projects as part of our 10-year Master Plan. For more information on reclaimed water and other projects, please visit our website at www.westbaysanitary.org We look forward to another great year and hope the same for our community!

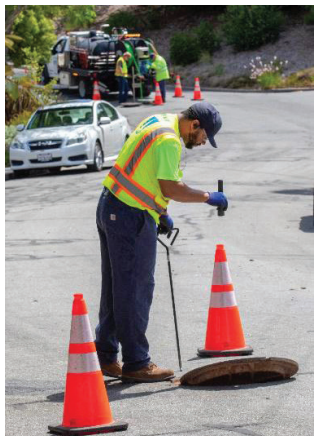
SAFETY FIRST!

The District employees have surpassed seven years without a lost time accident which represents one of the lowest rates of on-the-job injuries in the wastewater and public works industries. Employees have worked over 62,400 hours without a lost time accident. As a result of working year after year without a lost time accident, the District has realized savings in insurance contributions to the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority. The District's proactive safety program is an essential part of effective risk management and provides savings in insurance premiums, improved morale, increased productivity, employee' wellbeing, and may reduce equipment and vehicle repair costs.

Trench Safety Training

LENDING A HELPING HAND

The District is in three Interagency Service agreements for the Operations and Maintenance of sanitary sewer systems. Since 2014 staff have been successfully working with the Town of Woodside and Town of Los Altos Hills to inspect and clean the towns' sewer systems. Staff recommends repairs and are added to the towns' Capital Improvement Projects according to the deficiencies found by the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Crews. The District's Pump Crew also maintains the publicly owned sewer lift stations for the towns. As of August 1, 2024, the District entered its third interagency agreement with the City of East Palo Alto to assist in maintaining their subsidiary sanitary district, the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD). District maintenance crews will Hydro Jet and CCTV inspect the sanitary sewer mainlines just as they do for the other two contracts. This agreement includes 24-hour lateral service call response; as well, as Underground Service Alert (USA) utility marking. All three agreements are intended to provide the same quality service West Bay Sanitary District customers have been receiving since the District was formed in 1902.



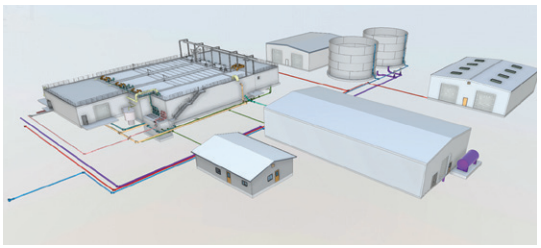
Inspecting Manhole Pipeline Access while Jetting

IMPROVING THE PROCESS

Our regional wastewater treatment plant, Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) is developing a Nutrient Removal project mandated by the California State Water Board. In addition to the solids, organics, and pathogen removal already required by the Water Board, SVCW will soon need to reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged into the bay by 60%. If nutrients are not treated, the discharge of nitrogen into the bay can cause algal blooms, kill fish, increase microbes and be harmful to human health and aquatic plants and animals. The new mandate will require SVCW to make a significant investment in the treatment process that could cost nearly $100 million or beyond. The nutrients removal project will need to be constructed by 2034. SVCW is currently in the planning phase for the project and is looking for ways to reduce the cost while still meeting the regulatory requirement.

DISTRICT PROJECTS

Bayfront Recycled Water Facility Project will include a recycled water facility, recycled water distribution pipeline, and influent wastewater pumping station. The District's consultant, Woodard & Curran, is managing the construction. The project began in August 2024 with a completion date in early 2027.



Bayfront Recycled Water Facility

Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements Project provides sea rise flood protection of the District's Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility (FERRF). Improvements include both sheet pile and nature-based adaptation measures, with a (living shoreline to combat rising sea levels. The project raises the levee from its current elevation to fifteen feet, four feet above the FEMA eleven-foot flood elevation.

Bayfront Park Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project is located at the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway at Bedwell Bayfront Park. It is upsizing trunk sewer pipelines for the benefit of a future influent pump station, replacing portions of the 30-inch and 36-inch sewer main along Bayfront Expressway at the front of the park entrance with a 42-inch pipeline to allow for future capacity, and installing recycled water pipe for future use.

Avy Altschul Pump Station Project is located on Los Lomitas Elementary School District property in a new easement to provide 60,000 gallons per day of additional wastewater to the Sharon Heights Recycled Water Facility for treatment, used for irrigation.

Willow Road Pump Station & Stowe Lane Pump Station Projects are modernizing two of the District's oldest pump stations. This includes features such as new pumps and valves, modern telemetry alarm communication, fall protection access hatches, ventilation for updated odor control, and security perimeter fencing.

Pump Stations Telemetry System Project will replace the District's phone line telemetry system to monitor the eleven publicly owned pump stations. The District's telemetry system is vital to monitoring and operating the District's pump stations. The new system will remove outdated telephone lines and be cloud based, bringing the system to the 21st century.

Point Repair Phase 1 & 2
This project includes rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by open trench construction, pipe bursting, pipe patches, and cured-in-place pipe at 100 locations in the City of Menlo Park, Town of Atherton, and unincorporated areas in San Mateo County. The project replaces old pipeline with root intrusion, cracks, and voids. Some pipelines have been in the ground for over 90 years.

Contractor Replacing Old Brick Manhole with Concrete Manhole

For a sewer emergency or sewer-related problems, please call us first! You can reach us day or night at (650) 321-0384. If the main public sewer line is blocked, only West Bay has the authority to clear the system. If the public sewer main line is clear, we may advise you to contact a plumbing contractor to resolve the issue on your property.