

Manager's Corner



by Phil Scott
District Manager

During the holiday season we like to spend time with our families. It's a time to reconnect and visit with loved ones we haven't seen much and be reminded that Uncle Joe's jokes are corny. It's a time to see the joy on the faces of our children and grandchildren.

Here at West Bay Sanitary District we'll be losing two of our 'work family' members to retirement at the end of the December.

Mark Praturion is our Regulatory Compliance Inspector. He's been working here for nearly 33 years and remembers things about the organization from all of those many years. Mark started here as a young man, eager to learn and strong as a mule. Mark started as a Maintenance Worker and then his job was to inspect restaurants to make sure they weren't allowing too much grease to go down the drain. He also inspected the layout of new commercial kitchens. Mark remembers when Raychem, Heublein, and Sun Micro Systems were in town and the railroad tracks on Willow Road were active.

The other West Bay family member to leave is Rich Kinder. Rich has worked here for 20 years and is a native Menlo Park resident. Rich came to West

Bay as a Concrete Contractor and taught many of our folks how to lay concrete correctly. He's an avid runner and, until recently, an ultra-marathon runner. Rich also loves taxidermy as a hobby and is very good at it. Rich always has such a positive attitude and tells great stories from years ago.

This is the last holiday season we will have with Rich and Mark as part of the work family and they will be sorely missed. We will miss their job knowledge, wisdom and wit, and the institutional history they shared. We wish them well.

Tell your loved ones how much they mean to you this holiday season and be sure to express how much you appreciate your work family too before the opportunity slips away. I've learned over the years that life is not about the work you did or what you accomplished but rather about the relationships you've had at home, work or play. It's those relationships you'll remember and cherish the most as the seasons go by.

Happy Holidays from the West Bay Sanitary District family.



EMERGENCY WORK SAVED SEWER LINE, WATER LINE AND ROAD

Northern California experienced unusually heavy rains last winter causing significant damage to roads, creeks, dams, and other facilities. West Bay fared well but did not emerge from the winter's damage unscathed. On February 10, 2017, West Bay was made aware that the 15" sewer main at the edge of the road pavement on Alpine Road was in danger of slipping into the adjacent creek (San Francisquito). The County road bank was slipping into the creek and threatening to take our sewer main and a large water main with it. The creek bank at Alpine Road slid a little more and the opening at the surface widened. West Bay declared an emergency in order to shore up the 15" sewer line on Alpine Road across from the Shell station in an effort to keep the sewer line from sliding into the creek. This declaration allowed West Bay to secure a contractor without delay and, working with West Bay crews they drilled for and installed stitch piers to hold up the pipe trench area in case the creek bank slid further and fell into the creek. This course of action stopped the sliding quickly and saved the sewer line, water line and Alpine Road from further damage.



REPAIR PLANS AVAILABLE FOR WEST BAY CUSTOMERS

West Bay is continuing its Partnership with Home Emergency Insurance Solutions (parent company HomeServe) to Offer Sewer Line Repair Service Plans to West Bay customers. West Bay Sanitary District strives to provide excellent service to its customers. A number of our customers have asked for a way to assist in the significant cost of repairing or replacing a sewer lateral pipe. That is why we've partnered with Home Emergency Insurance Solutions to offer West Bay homeowners optional, exterior sewer line protection. As a homeowner, you may be unaware that it is your responsibility to repair the exterior sewer line that runs from the West Bay Sanitary District service connection (typically in the center of the street) to your home. Repairs can be expensive and are usually not covered by basic homeowners insurance. Home Emergency Insurance Solutions provides up to \$6,000 per year for repairs on sewer laterals between the home and sewer main for \$18.99/month.

Have questions? Call Home Emergency Insurance Solutions at 1-855-807-6628 or visit the secure website: www.WestBaySewerPlan.com.

FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT IMPLEMENTED

This fall West Bay worked to protect its facility behind Bayfront Park from potential flooding caused by the Bay's king tides and rising sea level. In order to do so, West Bay brought in many truck loads of dirt daily to reinforce levees around the facility. This project was necessary in order to protect this valuable resource against Mother Nature's damaging effects for decades to come.



BAYFRONT RECYCLED WATER FACILITY PLAN IN DEVELOPMENT

As a result of West Bay's Recycled Water Market Study in 2014, West Bay has been working on the design/build of a recycled water satellite filtration treatment facility at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club to produce recycled water. Using this project as a pilot, the West Bay Board expressed its desire to explore the feasibility of constructing a recycled water treatment facility at the Bayfront location where the former West Bay treatment facility is located.

The original Market Study concluded that there is sufficient demand for recycled water in the Bayfront area of Menlo Park to justify a recycled water treatment facility.

This Facilities Plan is the next step in assessing the feasibility of designing and building a Bayfront recycled water filtration facility. The Facilities Plan will include an update to the Market Study of 2014, and environmental, constructability, and financial feasibility analysis. West Bay has been approved for a State grant that would pay half of the cost of a Facilities Plan, up to \$75,000.

WEST BAY FINALIST FOR SAFETY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

The West Bay Sanitary District was named a finalist by the California Transportation Foundation for the Marsh Road Chanel Repair project with the Town of Atherton. Office & Communications Manager Todd Reese represented West Bay at the awards ceremony.



HELP FIGHT FOG! (FATS, OILS & GREASE)

Sewer problems frequently are caused by the improper disposal of materials, including fats, oils, and greases, also known as FOG, introduced into the sewer system by West Bay residents and businesses. After they enter the sewer system they will solidify and, after a while, can build up, plug drain lines in your home, building, or complex. FOG blockages can create sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) inside your home or business or overflow onto streets, entering the storm drainage basins that lead to creeks and streams which flow to the San Francisco Bay. Fats, oil and grease can come from many sources. In the food industry, 'grease' often refers to fats and oils derived from animal and vegetable sources. These include coffee grinds, meats, nuts, cereals, beans and waxes/paraffin. You can help reduce fats, oils and grease from accumulating in the pipelines by recycling or disposing of your grease in the garbage rather than pouring it down the drain.



SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSO'S) REDUCED

West Bay has seen a reduction in SSOs in 2017 by maintaining an aggressive cleaning cycle. Because of our tree lined streets and root intrusion into the pipelines, our schedule requires clay pipes that are 6, 8 or 10 inches to be cleaned every 12 months. Every line is either cleaned with a root saw to remove roots or high water pressure cleaned using a "proofing" tool to guarantee the pipe is cleaned to a certain standard. Three of the five SSO's in 2017 were due to uncontrollable events. Two were caused by contractors striking the public sewer main and another was due to a power outage and subsequent email server malfunction; otherwise our SSO rate would be two for the entire year, a notable feat.



BELLE HAVEN III SEWER PROJECT PLANNED

The Belle Haven III project is the third phase of a three phase project and consists of the replacement and rehabilitation of approximately 12,200 linear feet (2.3 miles) of 6-inch to 24-inch sanitary sewer mains. Most of the Belle Haven III project will replace/rehabilitate approximately 10,000 feet of sanitary sewer mains in various locations between the Bayshore Freeway, Bayfront Expressway, and Willow Road; and along Santa Cruz Avenue between Akinson Lane and Olive Street within the City of Menlo Park. In addition, approximately 550 feet will be along El Camino Real and Maple Avenue within the Town of Atherton; and 1,650 feet will be replaced along Vine Street between Sand Hill Road and Palo Alto Way; and along the Alameda de Las Pulgas between Campo Bello and Harrison Way within San Mateo County.

The project will involve the replacement and rehabilitation of the sewer mains with the standard open trench method, pipe bursting in areas where the pipeline needs replacement and trenchless methods using a structural cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) liner in areas where the pipeline can be rehabilitated. The engineer's estimated cost for construction is \$4,727,720.00. The project is slated to begin in mid-2018.

WEST BAY JOINED IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

The West Bay Sanitary District treated guests to games and prizes this year at a number of community events including the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce Block Party, Facebook County Fair, Facebook Halloween Festival and at the Menlo Movie Series, which West Bay sponsored.



DISTRICT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN EVEN YEARS

In February 2017 West Bay passed a resolution to hold elections in even years. The purpose of rescheduling to even-numbered year elections is to enhance voter participation and further increase the percentage of voters participating in the Special Districts elections. The change was approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors which stated that West Bay must move the election date from November of odd-numbered years to November of even-numbered years commencing in 2018. Board members whose terms would have expired in 2017 were extended to 2018 and Board members whose terms would have expired in 2019 were extended to 2020. The next district elections are scheduled for November 2018.

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS



Ned Moritz,
President



Fran Dehn,
Secretary



Roy Thiele-Sardiña,
Treasurer



David Walker,
Director



George Otte,
Director