



**Manager's Corner**



by Phil Scott  
District Manager

West Bay Sanitary District is a Special Independent District of the State of California that was formed in 1902. Since then, it has grown to serve over 55,000 customers while retaining its dedication to protecting the public health and the environment by providing cost-effective sanitary sewer service.

I have been the District Manager for 10 years now and this will be my last Winter Bulletin addressing you from the Manager's Corner. I am honored to have served the public in the water and wastewater (and now recycled water) industries since 1981 and will be retiring in 2020. It's time to let the younger men and women with fresh ideas and bright hopes for the future build upon the foundation that has been laid as they continue to make West Bay an innovative, responsive district dedicated to serving you.

I firmly believe in the Athenian Oath which calls upon all public servants to "transfer this City"—in our case, the District—"in better condition than which it was received." I know that the fine men and women whom I have had the distinct pleasure of hiring, working with and mentoring will take their duty seriously and work to continually improve our West Bay Sanitary District. They are the best group I've ever worked with.

**WEST BAY'S CERTIFIED STAFF ENSURES SEWER SYSTEM WORKS SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY**

You've probably seen our underground pipeline inspection, trenchless repairs, and sewer system cleaning vehicles on the road from time to time. The West Bay Sanitary District crews work diligently to assess the condition of the sewer system as well as cleaning all of the public sewer mains in the area year after year.

This ensures waste water collection is kept in the pipes and is transported safely underground to the local waste water treatment plant in Redwood Shores. Maintaining a sewer system is not easy and takes qualified people to do the work.

Every member of our maintenance staff has received certification through the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA). We're also very proud that the Santa Clara Valley section of the CWEA has recognized Damian Madrigal as Supervisor of the Year and Victor Garcia as a Collection System Person of the Year.

"I am very proud of our entire staff and our success in reducing sanitary sewer overflows," Operations Superintendent Sergio Ramirez said. "We have gone from over 40 overflows per year to only four in an entire year, well below the State's average, and we'll continue our efforts to reach zero!"

The district also provides a courtesy cleaning when homeowners have a conforming property line clean out. We encourage everyone to "call us first" so we can help assess whether a plumbing issue is related to the public sewer main or the private sewer lateral.



Roots, such as this one displayed by Justin Kinder, are a common cause of sewer damage.

Our 30 employees work hard to keep pipes clean and wastewater flowing through pump stations all the way to the regional treatment plant in Redwood Shores. Our West Bay staff is dedicated, extensively trained in best practices, and committed to excellence. It is also supported by the absolute finest Board of Directors ever.

The District Board is comprised of sound fiscal stewards who wisely develop policy that allows the District to replace pipe and infrastructure to keep wastewater moving and who ensure that staff has all the tools, equipment and supplies needed to serve our community. The Board also invests in training, in new equipment, new maintenance techniques, new technologies and in coaching and mentoring employees.

I truly have never worked for a more supportive and unified Board in my career. I am grateful to have ended my career in service working under such a fine group of men and women, including our Board President Fran Dehn, Treasurer Roy Theile-Sardina, Secretary George Otte, Director Ned Moritz, and Director David Walker.

I am also very proud to say I have done my best to serve the terrific communities and cities of Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton and unincorporated portions of San Mateo County. Thank you one and all for a perfect finish to a career in public service. Happy New Year to all and I wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season.

**DISTRICT BOARD APPROVES GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL ASSETS BUDGETS FOR 2019-20**

The General Fund and Capital Assets Fund budgets were approved by the Board of Directors in June. The District continues to hold adequate reserves and is on track to maintain its goal of replacing 1.5% of the system's aging pipeline each year.

General Fund operating income for fiscal year 2019-20 is projected at \$31,363,053, while expenditures are currently budgeted at \$29,146,904. During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the District completed a \$6,416,000 payoff of the balance owed on the \$13 million in Silicon Valley Clean Water bonds issued in 2018, saving the District interest charges that would have been paid in upcoming years.

Expenditures from the Capital Assets Fund are budgeted at \$6,874,050. The District maintains a strong reserve balance in accordance with good government standards and as protection against a natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

**HOME SEWER WARRANTY PLANS AVAILABLE FOR WEST BAY CUSTOMERS**

West Bay is continuing its partnership with Home Emergency Insurance Solutions (HEIS) to offer sewer line repair service plans to District customers. This is an optional service provided to our customers and the District receives no compensation from it.

You may be unaware that it is your responsibility as a homeowner 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. HEIS 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](http://www.WestBaySewerPlan.com).

**SHARON HEIGHTS WATER RECYCLING PROJECT RECEIVES GOLDEN ACORN AWARD**

The West Bay Sanitary District is proud to be this year's recipient of a Golden Acorn Award for Environmental Stewardship from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. The Golden Acorn awards, which are now in their 43rd year and celebrate community achievement through volunteer efforts and contributions made by organizations and individuals, are a Menlo Park tradition.

The District was honored for its Sharon Heights recycled water project, a partnership with Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club for the construction



District Manager Phil Scott and Robin Driscoll of Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club display Golden Acorn awards received for their public-private partnership.

of a satellite treatment facility at Sharon Heights. It has the capacity to treat a half-million gallons per day and can deliver an estimated 80 million gallons per day of recycled water. The facility will save approximately 50 millions of gallons of Hetch Hetchy water annually.

The project was the first to use recycled water in Menlo Park and replaces the drinkable water that had been used for irrigation at Sharon Heights Golf Club and in industrial applications. It has potential for future growth and is 80% complete.

The award recognizes creative, responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. The Sharon Heights project benefits the entire community by saving precious water resources and is cost-neutral to District ratepayers.

*Funding for this \$22.6 million West Bay Sanitary District Recycled Water Project—Sharon Heights has been provided in full or in part by Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. Funding has also been provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is capitalized through a variety of funding sources including grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and state bond proceeds.*

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ENHANCE SERVICE**

The Belle Haven Phase III project is replacing and rehabilitating nearly two miles of sewer mains primarily in the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park. Additional improvements are also being made as part of the project in Atherton, Portola Valley and unincorporated San Mateo County areas near Sand Hill Road and in the Alameda de las Pulgas area.

The recently completed **Alpine Road Sewer Project** involved replacing approximately 4,000 feet of aging sewer mains along Alpine Road in Portola Valley. The four-month project included successfully replacing a failing asbestos cement pipe with plastic pipe and performing required remediation.



Over two miles of pipe is being replaced in the Belle Haven area.

**HELP FIGHT CLOGS FROM FOG! (FATS, OILS AND GREASE)**

Fats, oils, and grease—or FOG for short—introduced into the sewer system by West Bay residents and businesses can cause sewer clogs that disrupt service or require repairs at the homeowner's expense. After these seemingly innocent cooking residues enter the sewer system, they solidify and can build up and plug drain lines in your home, building, or complex. FOG blockages can create sanitary sewer overflows inside your home or business and can also lead to overflow onto streets, where effluent may enter the storm drainage basins that lead to creeks and streams flowing into San Francisco Bay.



Cooking oils can solidify and cause sewer line clogs that disrupt service or need repairs.

In the food industry, grease usually refers to fats and oils derived from animal and vegetable sources, including coffee grounds, meats, nuts, cereals, beans and waxes/paraffin. The District works with restaurants and businesses in a proactive FOG program that helps keep grease traps clean and encourages recycling of grease and oils instead of disposing them into the sewer system. As a result, less than 10% of District sewer blockages are FOG-related.

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. Wipe off grease and food scraps from plates, utensils, pots and pans prior to washing. Small amounts of grease can be collected in milk or ice cream cartons for disposal. If you have larger amounts, up to 10 gallons of home-generated cooking oil may be recycled at the Shoreway Material Recovery facility at 225 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.

**STUDY COMPLETED ON PROPOSED RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER**

The District has completed a feasibility study to explore the viability of a recycled water treatment plant at the Flow Equalization Resource Recovery Facility at the District's former treatment plant behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The Resource Recovery Center could produce 500,000 gallons per day of recycled water for reuse.

Construction of the facility would require raising the levee adjacent to the facility to protect against king tides, high tides that occur twice a year.

The District is laying the groundwork for increasing the use of recycled water in East Menlo Park (Connect Menlo area). In a public-private partnership with Facebook, the West Bay Board of Directors spearheaded the effort to install 2,800 feet of purple recycled water pipe parallel with the storm drain pipe Facebook was replacing on Chilco Street. This pipe can be used in the future to distribute recycled water in the area without having to dig up the street again.

Recycled water from the proposed facility could potentially be used for irrigation, industrial purposes, firefighting, public fill stations and even for flushing toilets in the Bayfront (M-2) area. This regional approach would be sustainable, less expensive and available to a broader user base than expensive on-site treatment systems.