

Manager's Corner



By Phil Scott
District Manager

2013 was another successful year at West Bay Sanitary District. We replaced or rehabilitated 3 miles of wastewater pipeline, reduced sewer spills by another 20%, and successfully delivered over 3.3 million gallons a day of wastewater to the treatment plant. Every individual at West Bay worked hard to meet the productivity goals established for the cleaning, repairing, and replacement of sewer lines in order to successfully reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from 41 in 2010 to only 10 in 2013.

And our Operations personnel aren't the only ones seeing the fruit of their labors. The administration group is achieving success in investments of District reserves, saving money in the purchase of replacement equipment, and sharing resources with other local agencies. The District has realized 3.2% return on investments this year which is terrific compared to the return we would get with our money in the State's Local Agency Investment Fund with a current interest

rate of 0.27%. The District saved over \$35,000 on the purchase of a Sewer Cleaning truck by piggy backing on the City of San Jose's purchase order to get the same volume pricing for the single purchase. West Bay also collaborated with other agencies to share in training costs where we have common training needs and worked with other agencies to provide maintenance services in areas in which the District excels and other agencies have limited resources. The District will continue to implement approaches like these in 2014 in an effort to maximize economies of scale and keep rates as low as possible.

We are committed to keeping the wastewater in the pipes. That's why we not only clean the sewer main lines but we offer a "courtesy cleaning" of the homeowner's private sewer lateral from a conforming property line clean out to the sewer main. The District provides 24 hour emergency service. If you have a sewer lateral problem,



day or night, call us first at (650) 321-0384 and we can assess if it's a problem we can fix based on its location or if you will need to call a plumber or drain cleaning service.

We have cleaned more sewer lines, repaired more sewer lines and replaced more miles of pipeline over the last few years than ever before, vastly increasing the dependability of our wastewater collection system. You can depend on us to serve you.



**REPORT A PROBLEM
by calling
(650) 321-0384**

CCTV Camera Unit and Step Van System Upgraded

District Staff performs closed circuit television (CCTV) inspections to assess the District's Collection System on a 5 year basis. This entails placing a camera into sewer pipes to visually inspect the condition of the pipe and to determine whether repairs or replacement is necessary. Additionally, CCTV inspections serve to verify the cleaning crews are cleaning line segments properly as part of our on-going Quality Control (Q/C) as addressed in the District's Sewer System Management Plan.



The existing CCTV unit was purchased in 2002 and has reached its useful life. The Board of Directors authorized the FY2013/2014 budget which included replacing the 2001 CCTV Camera Unit. The amount budgeted is \$285,000, which is listed under CCTV Step Van System Unit 215 in the Capital Asset Expenditures document. After comparing the CCTV equipment and history of performance staff determined that "piggy-backing" off of the City of San Jose's purchase would be in the best interest, provide a price break, and streamline the purchasing process, all of which has saved the District time and money.

West Bay Sanitary District Sponsors First Annual Diaper Derby Race in Menlo Park

The West Bay Sanitary District proudly sponsored the first ever Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce Block Party Diaper Derby, where babies from all over Menlo Park raced by the seat of their pants (or in this case diapers) to compete for top prizes on Santa Cruz Avenue in June 2013.

The mini-race took place on a rainbow gymnastic mat amid a sea of balloons, bubbles, and live music that painted the streets of Santa Cruz Avenue.

"We were happy to sponsor this fun event, give away some great prizes and get the word out about what to flush, and not flush, down the drain."

—Phil Scott, West Bay District Manager



Board Approves 2013/14 Budget

The West Bay Sanitary District Board of Directors has approved the 2013/14 budget that projects \$19,275,600 in revenues and \$20,826,202 in total expenses, liabilities and reserves in the General Fund. The most significant costs are our non-operating expenses, which have risen to a full 60% (\$8.8M) of all expenses for the District and include the support of the Wastewater Treatment Plant operations at South Bayside System Authority (SBSA), as well as debt service on the bonds to fund SBSA's Capital Improvement projects. West Bay Sanitary is a partner with Redwood City, Belmont, and San Carlos, which formed the Joint Powers Authority known as SBSA.

The Capital Asset Fund budget includes capital expenditures and revenue transfers of \$5,672,500. This number consists of almost \$5 million in capital projects such as pipeline replacement. It also includes equipment replacement and contributions to our emergency reserves.

For more budget details go to www.westbaysanitary.org/about-us/budget-finance

West Bay Wins Collection System of the Year Award!

In early 2013 West Bay was awarded the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA), 2012 Collection System of the Year Award for the Santa Clara Valley Section. The award recognizes the District for success in operating a top quality organization and leading the way in the water environment field. The award was given in recognition that District Staff has implemented numerous improvements to its maintenance program, safety program, pipeline replacement projects, customer service and has considerably reduced sanitary sewer overflows to a record low.



These and more accomplishments are captured in the District Performance Measures Report: www.westbaysanitary.org/about-us/budget-finance

Heath Cortez was named the Collection System Supervisor of the year. The program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the water environment field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the field, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

District Purchases Aquatech Hydro-Jet/Vacuum Combination Sewer Cleaning Unit

The District's new Aquatech Combo Unit replaces the District's eleven year old combo unit to clean and vacuum all sewer mainlines and wet wells within the district, which is part of our strategic goals. The existing combo unit has surpassed its useful life and requires a new engine; other parts and components have failed as well.



Over the course of several months, District staff analyzed the latest technology in combo units and found that several improvements were made in the past eleven years. Staff looked at all options then determined that Aquatech (brand name) performed best. Use of a cooperative

purchasing program expedited the purchase of the Aquatech Combo Unit before the District suffered further break downs with the existing combo unit; this saved staff time while ensuring the District received a very competitive price for the equipment.

West Bay Hosts SWAT Urban Shield Event

West Bay has partnered with local Public Safety agencies in San Mateo to host first responder preparedness exercises for SWAT teams, Fire Rescue Teams, EMS and medical emergency teams. Regional training occurred at several facilities throughout Alameda and San Mateo Counties during this Event in October. West Bay agreed to have some of the training events take place at the old wastewater treatment facilities located behind Bay Front Park.

To learn more go to www.urbanshield.org.



2013 Capital Improvement Projects Complete

In 2013 District contractors completed work on two capital improvement projects.

The 30-Inch Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project also known as the 30-Inch Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) Lining Project consists of the rehabilitation of approximately 4,400 linear feet of 30-inch sanitary sewer main. The existing sewer main is a CMP along an easement through non-residential parcels located on the north-westerly part of the District in the City of Menlo Park, California.



The second, the Frederick and Suburban Park Project is located between Bay Road and the Bayshore Freeway and between Flood Park and Marsh Road within the City of Menlo Park. The Frederick area is an area approximately 3,200 feet between Van Buren Road and Frederick Avenue and between Green Oaks Drive and Ringwood Avenue within the Town of Atherton and City of Menlo Park. The Suburban Park Project was approximately 7,700 feet. Total project estimate \$2,415,846.

West Bay Sanitary District Passes Resolution for No Rate Increase for Solid Waste (Garbage/Recycling) Collection in 2014

In 2013 District Board of Directors made it official that the District's 2,200 solid waste customers in unincorporated San Mateo County will not see an increase in rates in 2014.

Past rate year's increases now have caught up to the increased costs of weekly pick up of the compost cans. External costs such as labor and fuel rates have stabilized as well. Combined these factors enable the District to provide a "no increase" year in solid waste rates.



For more info go to www.rethinkwaste.org

"We are pleased that there will be no rate increase for our solid waste customers in 2014," said WBSD Director Fran Dehn. "It's very important for our customers to have the services from Recology that provide them with recycling, organic materials and solid waste collection and not have an increase in rates for the upcoming year."

Recology San Mateo County provides collection services for refuse, recyclable materials, and compostable materials under a ten-year franchise agreement with the District which began January 2011.



WHAT 2 FLUSH
It's simple, the toilet is only meant to flush the three P's—pee, poop and paper. Human waste and toilet paper should be the only thing going down the toilet. Unfortunately, over the years, people have turned the toilet into a trash can. From medications to sanitary products and baby wipes to deceased pet fish and cigarette butts, if it fits, people flush it. Flushing these types of items down the toilet causes home pipes to clog, wastes water (up to 5 gallons of water every time you flush) and most importantly can have a huge impact on our sewers and not to mention our ocean.

What 2 Flush: know what should go down the drain that is sewer safe

Baby wipes are growing to be a huge problem for sewer systems; even though they say "flushable" they are not. They don't breakdown quickly and they cling to the pipelines underground and cause stoppages and jam pumps at the pumping stations.

A list of items that should NOT go down the Toilet! Baby Wipes, Sanitary Products, Paper Towels, Diapers, Prescription Drugs, Over-The-Counter Medications, Kitty Litter, Condoms, Dental Floss.

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