New Solid Waste Contract Negotiations

Leading the community to proper stewardship of our resources

New Contract, More Diversion

The District received proposals and is currently negotiating with Waste Management of Alameda County for a new solid waste contract. The District is committed to securing the best possible contract for Castro Valley residents and businesses while keeping solid waste diversion at the forefront of the decision-making process. The negotiation process is anticipated to conclude in June when the Board reviews the final proposed contract.

The new contract will have several new programs designed to help reach our goal of diverting the amount of solid waste sent to landfills by 75%. However, the cost of the new contract will be significantly more than the current one set to expire on April 30, 2009.

Most of the District’s residential and commercial customers can almost completely eliminate the effects of the higher rates by reducing the size of their garbage containers. This process is called “migration” and allows residents and businesses to take advantage of the strengths of the new contract, maintain nearly the same service charge, and help Castro Valley reach our 75% diversion goal.

Castro Valley Schools Recycle Food Scraps

Jensen Ranch Elementary and Independent Elementary schools have teamed up with Castro Valley Sanitary District to implement school-wide food scrap recycling programs.

With financial assistance from the District, the 2 schools now use trays made from sugar cane and forks, spoons and straws made from potatoes. The new trays and utensils are compostable and are added to their food scraps and food-soiled paper for collection in greenwaste carts. The materials are taken to a large-scale composting facility where they are processed into nutrient-rich compost.

As a result, Jensen Ranch Elementary and Independent Elementary schools now boast the highest diversion rates among schools in the District; recycling or composting more than 60% of the waste they generate.

WHAT’S INSIDE THIS EDITION:
• President’s Message: Operation Clean Sewer
• Free Document Shredding & U-Waste Day
• Capital Improvement Project Update
• Safe Medicine Disposal
• And More!
President’s Message

Normally not on the public’s radar, the aging infrastructure of sewage collection and treatment has received increased attention in recent months since a 5 million-gallon spill in Mill Valley in January. Shortly after the spill, the nonprofit environmental group, Baykeeper, announced it was kicking off its “Sick of Sewage” campaign.

Operation Clean Sewer is how I like to describe our plan to help prevent a “Sick of Sewage” chant being raised in Castro Valley by reducing sewer spills associated with blockages from debris, grease and storm-water infiltration.

Operation Clean Sewer reduces sewer spills through implementation of the following:
• TV inspection of 20% of the total system per year.

The picture below shows “grease balls” removed from our treatment plant after a large winter storm.

RALPH JOHNSON, President

Free Document Shredding & U-Waste Collection Day

On Saturday, July 12, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., the District will host a Document Shredding and U-Waste Collection Day at Canyon Middle School for residents and businesses. Items accepted include:

• Televisions, computers, monitors, laptops, computer peripherals (printers, keyboards, scanners, mouse, and speakers), cell phones, and phone batteries.
• Household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.
• Paper documents contained in cardboard boxes or paper bags.

Collected electronic waste will be dismantled and separated into recyclable commodities at a California Integrated Waste Management Board-certified recycling facility located in San Leandro, CA. Batteries and fluorescent light bulbs will be taken to an Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for proper disposal. Documents will be shredded onsite for recycling.

Please note: The Document Shredding and U-Waste Collection Day is for Castro Valley Sanitary District residents and businesses only; please bring a photo ID.

PLANNING A CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION PROJECT?

All construction & demolition (C&D) projects located in the Castro Valley Sanitary District must adhere to the following requirements:
1. Use Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) for all drop box services.
2. Recycle or reuse at least 50% of the C&D debris. For recycling and reuse options, refer to the Builders Guide to Reuse and Recycling.
3. Submit a Final Report Form to the District within 30 days of project completion (for projects valued at $75,000 or more).

Be sure to let WMAC know the box is for C&D debris, so that materials will be sorted for recycling.

Builders Guides and Final Report Forms are available online at www.cvsan.org/cdcl.htm or at the District offices on Marshall Street.

WHAT DOES YOUR BAG SAY ABOUT YOU?
Reduce, Reuse, & Bring Your Own Bag
What does it mean to “Reduce”? Consume and throw away less (make less waste).
What about “Reuse”? To use again. Reuse items by repairing, donating, or selling them (yard sale). Reusing products is even better than recycling them, because the item doesn’t need to be reprocessed before it can be used again.

The next time you visit a farmer’s market, grocery store, or department store, Bring Your Own Bag! Leaving a few bags in the car or hanging them on a hook by the door is a great way to always have one handy. It takes 12,000,000 barrels of oil and 14,000,000 trees to create the 30,000,000,000 plastic and 10,000,000,000 paper grocery bags used in the U.S. every year. For more information, visit www.googmybag.org.

CVSD has allocated $50,000 to LRGP grant recipients for fiscal year 2008/09. For complete program details or to obtain an application, visit www.cvsan.org/grants.htm or contact CVSD at (510) 537-0757. Applications will be reviewed and only qualifying laterals will be eligible for the LRGP.

Sewer service lateral connecting to public sewer main

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH EXPIRED OR UNUSED MEDICINES?

Take them to an Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste facility for proper disposal. Never put medicines down sinks or toilets.

Studies have found both prescription and non-prescription medicines in waterways nationwide. The medicines originate from human waste and the disposal of unused drugs down sinks and toilets. Scientists are studying the possible impacts on human and aquatic life when exposed to these drugs. You can help minimize potential problems by safely disposing of unused medicines at an Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste facility (no controlled substances accepted). For more information, please contact (800) 606-6066.
CVSD NewsNotes

News Rack Consolidation Along Castro Valley Boulevard
Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSD) awarded a one-time Community Development Project Grant to assist in the installation of eight uniform-looking pedestals holding news racks along Castro Valley Boulevard and Redwood Road.

Other parties involved include resident Carl Owens, Castro Valley Redevelopment Community Advisory Committee, Supervisor Nate Miley, Alameda County Community Development Agency, and vendors who utilize the racks.

Labor Day Collection Schedule
Waste Management of Alameda County collection services will be on schedule the week of September 1st. Please be sure to note this change on your 2008 Recycled Art Contest Calendar.

Report Sewer Emergencies
If you find a sewage overflow in your home, property, or public roadway, please contact us immediately.

Business hours, M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
CVSD offices (510) 537-0757
CVSD after hours (510) 506-5821

Contact us first to assess the situation prior to hiring a plumber.

Compost Give-Away 2008
CVSD distributed 1,610 bags of Wonder Grow compost during the event which ran through March. The nutrient-rich compost is made from Castro Valley’s food scraps and yard waste and makes an excellent fertilizer for house plants and gardens.

Thank you to Pete’s ACE Hardware, Workbench True Value Hardware and Boy Scout Troop #726 for helping make the event a success.

Wonder Grow compost is available for purchase (loose or bagged) at the Davis Street Garden Center. For more information visit www.dsgardencenter.com or contact (510) 638-2303.