Autumn greetings from CVSan! This edition of the CVSan Pipeline newsletter features many helpful articles on how we can all reduce what we throw away and how we can help the planet. Please take a moment to read how to recycle holiday cooking grease, and how we can help the planet.

Speaking of waste reduction, did you notice the cover photo of the recycled glass countertop in our lobby? This product was installed during the construction of the building some 15 years ago. Our building has many green elements that were being pioneered at the time. This was before there was a national Green Building program. Here at CVSan, we walk the walk and is as green as ever. Materials used in the building include recycled content such as waste-paper or recycled glass countertops.

Did you know you can also put small amounts of fats, oils and grease (we call it FOG for short) from cooking into the green cart with the FOG, or used metal soup cans.

If you are using a metal container, please reuse and do not dispose of the container in the organics cart. Also, use a spatula to scrape the FOG material into your food scraps bucket or directly into the green organics cart. Make sure food scraps or plant debris have lined the bottom of the cart. If you need to dispose of a large amount of FOG (i.e. a bucketful or more), please see the following website for directions:

http://www.household-hazwaste.org/
4R Business, 4R Planet Ca$h Incentive

CVSan certifies businesses that go above and beyond recycling by starting and maintaining activities in each of the 4R categories — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot (or alternative).

As of July 1, 2012, all businesses that become certified “4R Stars” receive a cash award, depending on business size and waste reduction, ranging from $150 up to $3,000. Getting started is easy! Castro Valley businesses can call 510-613-8751 to schedule a free site assessment or get started on their own by completing the application available at www.cvsan.org/Become4RStar.

Root Control Maintenance in Sewer System

You may have seen CVSan employees working on roots of trees or other plants in your neighborhood. This is because root intrusion into the sanitary sewer is a major maintenance problem. Lured by moisture and nutrients, roots find their way into sewer pipes, where they spread and block flow.

Blockages caused by root intrusion are the primary cause of the backups and sewer overflows that have occurred within our system over the last few years. In addition, these roots often lead to significant damage to sewer pipes. To combat this, CVSan’s maintenance personnel perform targeted pipe maintenance designed to both remove roots from pipe sections, and inhibit their growth.

Our Workers and Certification

Effective operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection system is critical to CVSan’s mission to protect public health and the environment. Ensuring that our workers are highly skilled and well-trained professionals is a top priority. CVSan requires active professional certification through the California Water Environment Association for all maintenance personnel. The certification is known as CSM, which stands for Collection and Service Personnel.

In addition, our maintenance team members are all certified pipe-line inspection analysts through the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program. These certifications confirm that our workers have demonstrated the necessary level of job-related knowledge, technical skills and abilities, and training. The certification program provides an independent assurance that our workers are skilled in their craft.

Lateral Replacement Grant Status

Need to replace your sewer lateral? CVSan may be able to help you pay for it! CVSan’s most recent cycle of the Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) started in July 2012.

Through this program, CVSan grants up to $2,000 to property owners whose private sewer lateral qualifies under our defect rating system. CVSan still has more than $25,000 in grant funds available to qualified homeowners through June 2013. Reimbursements are provided on a qualified first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please visit www.cvsan.org/lrgp or call 510-606-1300.

How Do You Dispose of Used Motor Oil and Filters?

Did you know that motor oil never wears out? It just gets dirty! That’s why it’s important to recycle your used motor oil. It can be re-refined to become “good as new” meeting all manufacturers specifications. And don’t forget to recycle the filter, most contain about 10 ounces of used oil and one pound of reusable steel. Call WMAC at 510-537-5500 to request a free used motor oil jug and filter bag. Single-family residents can set out up to three jugs and three filters curbside on their collection day.

Multi-family residents can visit www.cvsan.org for a list of Certified Collection Centers.

Smoke Testing Project in Summer 2012

In July, CVSan conducted sewer smoke testing in portions of Castro Valley as part of a sewer system evaluation. Nontoxic smoke was blown into the underground sewer lines while workers looked for signs of smoke that can indicate damaged pipe. Using smoke to locate the damaged sections helps us pinpoint potential problem areas. Evaluation and repair of a small number of high-priority inflow points will reduce sewer system overflows, and reduce treatment costs for the District.

Cart Recall

You may have seen crews out swapping recycling, organics, and garbage carts. Between November 12 and December 21, 2012, these carts will be inspected and repaired due to a specific batch of material that adversely affected the carts’ durability. However, the durability problem does not pose a safety risk. Waste Management crews will:

1. Check your carts to determine if they are included in the recall.
2. Replace or repair all affected carts.
3. Leave a tag on each set of carts to let you know the action taken.

You will not have to pay anything, nor will this affect your rate. The exchange of these carts will extend their life and benefit the CVSan community.

Rudy’s Donuts, an Early Implementer 4R Star Business