Happy holidays in advance to everyone in the Castro Valley community. We are thankful that you have taken a few moments of your time to read through the Fall edition of the CVSan Pipeline. As you can tell, this edition has a lot of information about what we are doing in the Wastewater Department.

Just about every day of the year, CVSan collects more than three million gallons of wastewater from Castro Valley’s homes and businesses and delivers it to the wastewater treatment plant more than seven miles away in San Lorenzo. We do this through a combination of construction projects, pipe maintenance, and education about what should and should not be put down the drain. Together you and CVSan keep wastewater in the pipes, not in streets, creeks, or any other place it’s not supposed to be. Keep up the good work, and we will, too!

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

New Fee to Measure What Matters

Starting in August 2013, you may have noticed a new fee from StopWaste on your Waste Management bill. This fee supports an annual “benchmark” information service to measure progress toward the County’s goal of having less than 10 percent of what winds up in landfills be recyclable or compostable materials by 2020. Achieving our community recycling goals in turn creates local jobs, conserves resources, and preserves landfill capacity for current and future generations. The first report will arrive in 2014. The fee appears on the itemized charges section of your bill with a date of 7/29/2013 and a description of “Stopwaste fee.” For more information, please visit www.stopwaste.org/benchmark.

FOG and Holiday Cooking

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and flushed wipes are bad news for sewers. For example, a sewer agency in London, England recently uncovered a record breaking 15-ton congealed mass of FOG and wipes in its sewers!

As the holidays approach, CVSan asks Castro Valley residents to help keep Fats, Oils, and Grease out of the drain. With your cooperation, we can keep our pipes clear of “FOG-bergs” that can block sewers and cause sewer backups. Small amounts of grease can be placed in your green organics cart. Please visit www.stopwaste.org for disposal locations for larger quantities of FOG.
Keeping an Eye on the Pipes

Underground infrastructure — be it gas, water, or wastewater pipelines — is essential to a healthy and safe community. For wastewater in particular, municipalities across the nation are challenged with finding ways to control escalating costs associated with operating and maintaining aging infrastructure. CVSan uses state-of-the-art video equipment to inspect and review maintenance activity on its pipelines. This ensures that resources are not wasted on unnecessary repairs or inefficient cleaning practices. By the end of the current fiscal year, CVSan will have thoroughly inspected over 25 miles of sewer pipes. Just think: That’s enough pipe to reach from here to San Francisco!

Sewer Management Success

As of September 2013, CVSan’s rate of sewer overflows is 65% below the average for the SF Bay region. The total volume of those remaining overflows is 80% less than the state average for comparable municipalities. Our goal is to get the number of overflows as close to zero as possible, and keep it there.

To help us reach that goal, a revised draft of the monitoring and reporting program for the statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements was finalized and released by the State Water Resources Control Board in September 2013. The revised program prompted key modifications to CVSan’s Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP). CVSan’s updated SSMP will allow expanded classification of sewer overflows, better record keeping and monitoring when sewer overflows occur, more effective notification and reporting protocols, and more transparency to the public.

Sanitary Sewer Repairs

CVSan once again is working diligently to complete repairs to our aging sewer pipes. The project currently underway will fix some of the most defective sewer pipe segments in the system, to make our infrastructure more effective and reliable.

You may have already noticed construction crews at various locations around Castro Valley this fall. Please always remember to use caution and slow down near construction zones. CVSan and our contractors are working hard to complete the repairs in an efficient and timely manner. We appreciate your cooperation and patience. For more details about this project, visit http://www.cvsan.org/content/projects.

Feeding the Green Cart

Food and food-soiled paper are valuable resources that can be turned into compost!

All of the following go into your green organics cart: food products including fruit, vegetables, bread, cereal, dairy, and meat (even bones); coffee grounds & filters, and tea bags; and food-soiled paper, such as paper towels, plates, napkins, pizza boxes, and paper lunch sacks.

In addition to using the green pail, residents may use a variety of containers, such as milk, juice, or ice cream cartons, paper bags, newspapers, or cereal boxes. Just remember: no plastic or metal!

Empty the contents of your kitchen pail into your green organics cart. If you used a paper container in your kitchen to collect food scraps, just toss the whole thing into the cart.

Celebrating Grant Program’s Anniversary

Did you know that CVSan’s Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) kicked off its 15th year this past July? This program is designed to help residents with the costs associated with replacing lateral sewer lines. We’re proud to say since the inception of the program in 1998, CVSan has granted more than $875,000 in funding to nearly 500 property owners resulting in a community investment of well over $1.7 million into our sewer system.

For more information about CVSan’s Lateral Replacement Grant Program, please visit www.cvsan.org/grants or call us at 510-666-1300.

Spotlight on Apartments & Condos

CVSan is proud to announce that 100% of multi-family dwellings in Castro Valley participate in recycling. Congratulations to all the multi-family tenants, managers, and owners for reducing waste by recycling!

CVSan has been working with multi-family dwellings since 2006 to add recycling service, bringing us closer to CVSan’s goal of diverting 75% of materials from landfill. As of May 2013, all multi-family complexes in Castro Valley now subscribe to recycling service.

Construction Progress Update

CVSan completed the summer construction season on a high note. The District’s repair project MPP1-Phase 2 was completed within budget and on schedule. The contractor, J&M, Inc., of Livermore and the District endeavored to meet key project goals despite encountering difficult soil conditions, weather impact, and heavy traffic conditions. CVSan sends its appreciation and gratitude to CV community members who endured the inconvenience of the construction, as we worked toward the needed infrastructure improvements.