General Manager’s Message

We’re Better Together!

Ever hear the saying, “Many hands make light work”? We at CVSan truly believe that’s the case in waste reduction and resource management. CVSan and the community of Castro Valley live this motto every single day. Fats, oils and grease (FOG) reduction, as described in the Pipeline article on the bottom right, is only possible when all of us work together. It truly takes a village to keep the wastewater system flowing free from material that can cause sewer pages and spills. Likewise, the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot) are about each and every one of us doing our part to reduce the amount of “trash” we send to the landfill.

I am happy to say that the community of Castro Valley — including residents, businesses, and schools — have continued to make this community a gem in the San Francisco Bay Area. Way to go, team! Let’s keep up the good work.

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager
Collection System Maintenance

SELECTING THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

Cleaning underground sewer pipes can be a tricky and potentially dangerous business. CVSan’s maintenance personnel use an array of root-cutting, grease-chopping, and heavy debris-moving devices to get the job done. Selecting the appropriate tool for the job is like picking an automobile; some are built for speed and handling, others to handle tough terrain. An arsenal of specially crafted hydro-jetting nozzles is used to clean sewer pipes ranging in size from 6” to 54” in diameter. Maintenance personnel use visual observations of flow conditions, and responsiveness of specialty tools and equipment to confirm the operating status of the pipeline, or to determine what additional activity may be needed.

What Makes Up a Residential Rate

You may be interested in what makes up a resident’s monthly rate for solid waste services. Here’s a breakdown for those who subscribe to the 20-gallon Garbage cart (includes up to a 96-gallon Recycling cart and up to a 96-gallon Organics cart), effective July 1, 2014:

- $15.04 Collection
- $3.98 Disposal
- $2.40 Composting
- $2.38 Administrative Fee
- $23.80 Total Monthly Rate

The weekly rate for solid waste services is approximately $5.49. Compared with your average utility or services bill, the rate for weekly recycling, organics, and garbage services is well below that for other services your household may receive.

Grant Program Recap for 2013/2014

The Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) for the 2013/14 Fiscal Year was a huge success! High interest in the program led to securing extra funding, which was great news for the 25 residents who benefitted from the additional funds. To date, we have paid out $85,000 (85%) of our annual funding, with $15,000 currently promised to qualified residents. The next LRGP cycle will begin on Monday, July 7, 2014 at CVSan’s Capital Improvements office, 20211 Patio Drive, Suite 200. CVSan has allotted $50,000 for Fiscal Year 2014/15. For complete program details, please visit www.csvan.org/grants or call CVSan at 510-606-1300.

Construction Update

CVSan staff recently released a pump station rehabilitation project for bid. The project will include repairs and rehabilitation improvements at two of our nine pump stations. Collectively these two pump stations serve approximately 300 single family residences near the intersections of Grovenor Drive/Arcadian Drive and Proctor Road/Camino Alta Mira. Bids from contractors are due in the coming months, and CVSan plans to have construction commence this summer. The project will make both pump stations more up-to-date and reliable, during normal operating conditions as well as unexpected emergencies.

The Path to Zero Waste

After a series of public workshops and stakeholder meetings this past winter, CVSan will unveil its Zero Waste Strategic Plan at the June 3rd Board meeting. The Strategic Plan will contain an economic analysis, initiatives, and strategy options for the Board’s consideration. All are welcome at the meeting. Further details are posted at www.csvan.org/zerowaste.

Combating ‘Flushable’ Wipes

CVSan has encountered a new challenge to its mission to prevent sanitary sewer overflows: “flushable” wipes. When introduced to the sewer, products like baby wipes, cosmetic wipes, and cleaning wipes wreak havoc on cleaning tools and operating equipment needed to keep the sewers flowing. Unlike traditional paper-based products, these synthetic materials don’t dissolve in water, making it impossible for high-pressure jetting nozzles to break them down and keep flow conditions manageable. In an effort to minimize sewer overflows caused by these wipes, CVSan personnel have tripled their efforts to inspect and maintain pumps and other pumping equipment that are highly prone to damage due to non-dissolvable materials. Please place non-paper-based wipes in the garbage.

Green Your Spring & Summer Events with CVSan

CVSan has a variety of resources and expertise to help with event greening by applying the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot). If you are ready to reduce the amount of waste your event creates, we are ready to help! Please call the CVSan Solid Waste Department at 510-537-0757 or go to www.csvan.org/events to receive free assistance with your organization or business event.

The weekly rate for green, recycling, organics, and garbage services is well below that for other services your household may receive.

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