General Manager’s Message

In 2019, CVSan stayed busy planning, designing, and building wastewater infrastructure for Castro Valley. These assets are the hidden backbone of our communities’ utilities, and we will continue to invest in them in 2020.

Every day, CVSan transports, treats, and disposes of more than 3.5 million gallons of wastewater from homes and businesses to the San Francisco Bay. That’s more than 900 tanker trucks! We consistently repair, upgrade, and even initiate major capital projects to maintain our wastewater system.

The articles in this edition of our Pipeline newsletter give you a small glimpse of the work being performed by our dedicated employees and contractors.

We have many projects and programs scheduled for the coming year to improve on the award-winning wastewater system that is CVSan. The best is yet to come. Continue to read our newsletter or visit our website for more exciting news about upcoming efforts!

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

Private Sewer Lateral Program

Planning to sell your home in the spring or summer? Make sure to prepare your home now by having the private sewer lateral inspected by a licensed sewer contractor and reviewed by CVSan. When a property is sold, the private sewer lateral is required to be in compliance with CVSan’s standards. By meeting compliance, CVSan and the new homeowner can ensure that the private sewer lateral is free of any cracks, roots, and other defects. You can obtain more information on our webpage at cvsan.org/psl.

Capacity Improvement Project

Last summer and fall, CVSan completed the Marshall Street Capacity Improvement Project. This $1.85 million dollar project replaced approximately 3,000 linear feet of public sewer mains and made spot repairs at various locations throughout Castro Valley. Most of the work was located on Marshall Street and focused on upsizing existing public sewer mains to accommodate potential sewer surcharging during large storm events and reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows. For more information regarding ongoing and upcoming projects, visit cvsan.org/projects.
Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

Are you ready? Public safety is our primary concern and the most important reason why sanitation departments were established. CVSan makes every attempt to prepare for and provide service in the event of a disaster or other emergency situation. Steps you can take to prepare for emergencies include registering for First Aid or CPR training, keeping water and nonperishable food handy, and preparing a "go bag" with a first aid kit, flashlight, blanket, medications, and a portable radio. Have a five gallon bucket, toilet seat, and yard bags in the event toilets aren’t flushing. Keep cash on hand and at least a half a tank of gas. Stay prepared by creating good habits in your daily life. Read more at https://www.ready.gov/kit.

Go for Zero to Reduce Climate Change

Our climate and weather are becoming increasingly unpredictable. Average temperatures are rising while droughts, fires, superstorms, and floods are becoming more intense and more common. The changing climate negatively affects air quality, water quality, and food supply production while thousands of species of sea life and animals are becoming threatened or extinct.

Our climate is changing due to excess greenhouse gas emissions created by people. About half of those emissions come from our food as well as factors related to the energy required to transport things to us. However, we have the ability to fight climate change by working to achieve zero waste, so Go for Zero to Reduce Climate Change! Please visit SelectMyPath.org.

Center Street Project Update

CVSan staff members are excited to move forward with the Wastewater Corporation Yard project, located on the corner of Castro Valley Boulevard and Center Street. We continue to bring the project closer to breaking ground later this year.

Staff executed a contract with our design architectural firm, Dahlin Group, from Pleasanton, CA, this past fall. The preliminary design work began in the fall of 2019 and construction document preparation began recently. Once the design documents are prepared, CVSan will release them for bids this summer.

From Winner to Judge

CVSan won the prestigious California Water Environment Association (CWEA) State System of the Year Award in 2018. Now we’ve had the honor of sending a crew member to help the CWEA pick a new winner. CVSan’s Senior Collection System Maintenance Worker, Kevin Dip recently completed a series of multi-day tours of wastewater agencies throughout Northern and Southern California. He conducted interviews and evaluated nine different agencies on their documentation, facilities, team organization, and overall performance to determine who will win this year’s award. Asked what makes CVSan an industry leader, Kevin answered, "The trust that the crew has in each other to get the job done and that our supervisor [Greg Williams] promotes professional and personal growth."

Easement Manholes

Do you have a manhole in your backyard? If so, this means that there is likely an easement running through your backyard, and CVSan staff may need access to the manhole to perform maintenance on the pipeline. If the manhole is inaccessible to CVSan staff (such as being blocked by patio furniture or buried underneath soil), it can prevent proper inspection and cleaning of the public sewer main, which can cause sanitary sewer overflows.

To protect your property and our field staff, make sure to keep the area around any manholes clear of debris or obstacles that can prevent maintenance of the public sewer main. If you experience any issues with a manhole or an easement, please call (510) 537-0757 to notify staff.