General Manager’s Message

Dear CVSan Customers:

CVSan has approved increases to the sewer service charge for the next two years. You will see the new rate of $340 on your tax bill for 2015, an increase of $37 for the year or $3.08 per month.

The main reasons for the rate increases have to do with increased required maintenance to protect our sewer system, and critical improvement projects for wastewater treatment. Much of the sewer system is over 50 years old and it is the Board’s fiduciary responsibility to maintain the $250 million system in good working order.

To those ends, we have embarked on a joint project with Oro Loma Sanitary District to increase the capacity of the Castro Valley/ Oro Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant during extreme wet weather events, deal with sea level rise, and address the need for nutrient removal. This project is called the Wet Weather Equalization & Ecotone Slope. It is an environment- tally-friendly levee being built on a vacant field near the treatment plant. It will include 70,000 native plants that will be sustained by treated wastewater. The plants will help remove nutrients that can contribute to algae growth in the Bay. We know nutrient removal will be a future requirement and this project will allow CVSan to continue to be an environmental leader and take advantage of grant funding to position ourselves for future savings. The project is expected to cost $9 million in total. We look forward to sharing more about this innovative project as it is developed over the next two years.

CVSan takes the responsibility of the rates you pay very seriously as we fulfill our mission of protecting public health and safety. Thank you for your support.

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager
**High Tech Aids Asset Management**

Improvements in technology, software programs, and database management over the past decade have made it easier to analyze the large amounts of data needed for asset management. CVSan’s Wastewater Department has been working diligently in the last year to evaluate how we use these advanced programs and technologies to allow our staff to review gravity sewer pipeline defects and identify repairs that need to be made. Much of the latest technology is centered on geo-spatial database management, which allows for quick, easy visual display of the data in map form. This work helps the Wastewater Department complete the repair projects that will have the most long term benefit for CVSan’s sewer system.

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**Pump Station Upgrades & Repairs**

CVSan’s Engineering Department is nearing completion on the Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. The goal of the project was to modernize the pump control panels and enhance public safety features like fences at the stations on Grovenor Drive and Camino Alta Mira. Modifications also were made to improve the working conditions for our maintenance crews and their operations, such as new hatch covers with safety grates for fall protection and a new storage building to house emergency response equipment.

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**Zero Waste Books & Movies Donated to Castro Valley Library**

Utilizing grant funding, CVSan recently purchased a large number of zero waste and 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, rot) books and movies for all ages and donated them to the Castro Valley Library for community use and education. Some of the books include American Wasteland by Jonathan Bloom, Garbology by Edward Humes, Zero Waste Home by Bea Johnson, and How to Help the Earth, by the Lorax written by Tish Rabe. We also donated three zero waste movies titled Trashed with Jeremy Irons, Bag It, and Waste Land. Visit the Library to check out these informative zero waste titles.

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**What You Need to Know... About Sewers**

Whether it’s an existing sewer lateral or construction of a new one, many property owners do not know where their private sewer ends and the CVSan sewer begins. In Castro Valley the sewer lateral begins at the junction with the building plumbing system, usually located two feet outside the building foundation. It extends to and includes the connection to the public sewer main, most often in the street. The sewer lateral belongs to the property owner, who is responsible for all maintenance and repair. There are many contractors who can repair or replace a lateral. Call CVSan to request our Qualified Contractors List.

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**Spotlight on Schools: Bag-A-Bag Program Captures Plastic Film**

CVSan’s waste audit program found that 43% percent of recyclable materials going into the garbage at schools are plastic film. In 2014-15, Green Ribbon schools were required to implement a bag-a-bag program, which is a system to capture the plastic film and bags for recycling. So far, 16 schools in Castro Valley started or enhanced a bag-a-bag program at student lunch sorting stations, in kitchens, and in staff workrooms. Schools save money on their garbage bill by reducing what goes to the landfill. And by teaching recycling at schools, CVSan strives to aid the next generation in becoming environmental stewards.

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**Recycling & Garbage for Canyonlands**

On May 14, 2015, the Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) approved an application by the County of Alameda to annex the Castro Valley Canyonlands area into CVSan for the provision of solid waste services (not wastewater). A protest process was completed, and based on less than 25% protest, LAFCo ordered the annexation on July 9, 2015. CVSan anticipates providing recycling and garbage collection services to residences and businesses on roads such as Crow Canyon, Dublin Canyon, Norris Canyon, Palomares, Cull Canyon, and Sunnyslope Avenue beginning December 1, 2015.