Welcome to the winter edition of the CVSan Pipeline newsletter.

First of all, I want to thank all of you who reached out to CVSan upon the passing of long-time board member, Harry Francis. Your kind words and expressions of honor and respect towards Harry are greatly appreciated.

CVSan has maintained the second lowest sewer service rate in Alameda County, even while leading in environmental services to Castro Valley. We continue to make every effort to keep rates reasonable. To that end, we have commissioned a comprehensive sewer rate study to provide a check of the reasonableness and keep CVSan financially sound. This rate study has been discussed at several public meetings and will assist in the Board's consideration of new sewer rates at the March regular Board meeting. We welcome your input in this important process. Once again, thank you for your continued interest in CVSan.

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

CVSan Earth Day Events
April 27
Clean-Up from 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Recycle & Compost Give-Away from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
For complete details and to register for the Clean-Up by April 17th, please visit: www.cvsan.org/ED.

Upcoming CVSan Board Meetings:
March 5, April 2, May 7

CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

21040 Marshall Street
Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-537-0757 | www.cvsan.org

FOG is Clearing in Castro Valley

Every year, we inspect all the restaurants in Castro Valley to make sure that fats, oils and grease (FOG) is kept out of the sewer. FOG is a natural byproduct of food preparation, but when poured down the drain, it solidifies in pipes and can cause the sewers to back up and even overflow. Restaurant owners and kitchen staff use the best industry practices to prevent FOG from going down the drain.

These include: scraping food waste into the green bin, pouring used cooking oil into an oil recycling container, and maintaining the grease interceptor. The oils and fats that are collected can be recycled into biofuel and livestock feed supplements.

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"Effective environmental services since 1939"

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Lessons Learned from Overflows

CVSan’s performance record for number and volume of sewer overflows is well below the state average for agencies of comparable size and capacity. Over the last five years, a great deal of effort has gone into the planning and execution of inspection, maintenance, and overflow emergency response activity — all with the goal of reducing or eliminating overflows. Yet this past year saw two challenging weather-related spill incidents and a subsequent audit of the collection system by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All three events have challenged our notion of absolute preparedness and prompted needed changes to both our Sanitary Sewer Management Plan and fiscal planning for the next few years. We’re looking forward to meeting this new challenge and continuing to deliver reliable service well into the future.

Reusable Bag Ordinance & Give-Away

As of January 1, 2013, a new County-wide ordinance prohibits stores that sell packaged food — such as grocery stores, mini-marts, and pharmacies — from providing free bags at checkout. Instead, you can bring your own reusable bags, or purchase reusable bags or bags made of recycled paper at a minimum charge of 10 cents each. CVSan also plans to give away a number of bags (see picture at right), so watch for news of our upcoming give-away events at www.cvsan.org/byob.

Wet Weather Watch: Flow Monitoring

CVSan began its 2012/2013 wet weather flow monitoring program in November. The purpose of this program is to measure flows and undesired rainfall in sewer pipes. CVSan installed eight flow meters in strategic locations throughout the sewer system. Once the program is completed in Spring 2013, CVSan will use the collected data to assess proposed pipeline infrastructure improvement projects.

Earth Day and $5 Charity Donation

Mark your calendars for CVSan’s annual “Go Green, CV Clean!” Earth Day event on Saturday, April 27. Last year, approximately 800 volunteers earned $3,295 for local charities in Castro Valley. This year, Clean-Up volunteers can do the same! Instead of a t-shirt, each Clean-Up volunteer will have the opportunity to select one of five local charitable organizations to receive $5.00 on their behalf. Thank you for making our annual “Go Green, CV Clean!” Earth Day event a huge success! Please go to www.cvsan.org/ED for more.

Lateral Replacement Grant Program Status

The purpose of CVSan’s LRGP is to provide financial assistance to property owners for the replacement of their private sewer laterals, which is often a source of infiltration and inflow (II) into the main sewer system. II affects CVSan by increasing flows and operating costs. Each year, approximately $50,000 is available. For more information or to apply for a grant, please visit www.cvsan.org/grants or call CVSan at 510-606-1300.

Pump Station Tour

CAC Goes Behind the Scenes

Last summer, CVSan staff and Community Advisory Committee members visited several wastewater pump stations located throughout the District. Participants got a glimpse of just what it takes to move more than half a million gallons of raw sewage daily from geographically isolated areas to our gravity pipelines. In addition, a few members experienced for themselves what it’s like to suit up and perform maintenance and inspection work in one of these subsurface facilities. CVSan’s maintenance crew works to keep these costly but critical pumping stations in good operational order — an effort that requires a high level of technical ability.

StreetScape Event

On November 10, community members turned out to celebrate the completed Castro Valley Streetscape project. Residents joined civic leaders, business owners, and other community members to enjoy free access to the Boulevard between San Miguel Avenue and Redwood Road. CVSan helped make the Boulevard project possible by relocating its sewer pipe to meet the County’s construction schedule. This work provides necessary flow capacity for proper functioning.

DSTSTours

Since 2011, CVSan has offered field trips for residents and business owners to visit Waste Management’s Davis Street Transfer Station. Visitors learn first-hand what happens once recyclables, garbage, and organics leave the curb and are sent to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing. After a brief presentation that explains the purpose and benefits of recycling, participants observe how truckloads of materials are separated, sorted, and prepared for sale to manufacturers, who make them into recycled products. These tours are part of CVSan’s efforts to meet the State of California mandated goal of 75% waste diversion from landfill by 2020. To register or learn more, please visit www.cvsan.org/DSTSTour.