Happy 2015! Hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday season. In this issue we focus on the wastewater system. CVSan has about 150 miles of public sanitary sewer pipes and nine pump stations. It is our goal to collect, transport, and treat wastewater from each and every building in Castro Valley, every day, without spilling a drop. This issue discusses many of the elements that are required to keep our wastewater system running smoothly.

However, we could use your help. If you see water seeping out of a manhole, please give us a call. It may be CVSan’s system, and if so, every second counts to address the issue. If it’s not CVSan’s system, we will promptly contact the correct utility to address the issue. We are here to serve Castro Valley as we have for more than 75 years. So please call us first at (510) 537-0757 if you see any issues or have questions on a wastewater matter. We hope that 2015 will be a great year for you and yours. Thank you.

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

General Manager’s Message

Maintenance Update

CVSan’s pipeline maintenance program is built around three main components:

1 - Routine maintenance,
2 - Reactive maintenance, and
3 - Emergency response.

Nearly 65% of the work performed is proactive and designed to prevent problems from developing in the sewer system. By inspecting the pipes regularly, carefully documenting any defects or abnormalities, and adjusting the schedule for follow-up maintenance work appropriately, that number is expected to rise to an optimal 80% over the next 12 months.

Wet Weather Emergency Response

Like most sewer systems, CVSan has its share of system-wide inflow and infiltration challenges that occur during rainy weather. In fact, a half inch of rain can result in three times the amount of average daily flow in the sewers – that’s as much as 10-15 million gallons per day. On occasion, these heavy flows can overwhelm the system and cause pipes to back up and manholes to overflow. Our highly trained maintenance personnel use standby pumps, mobile sewer vacuuming equipment, and detailed maps of the system to handle these types of emergency situations.
Lateral Repairs - DOs & DON'Ts

Residents can do a lot to keep their sewer lateral in working condition. First, keep cooking grease and flushable wipes out of the pipes. Second, if possible, have minimal landscaping above the pipe in your yard. If a repair is needed, first get a CVSan repair permit. Second, call USA North @ 811 to locate underground utilities. And lastly, be sure to get at least three estimates if using a sewer contractor. This protects you and your lateral.

Shop Local and Buy Used

Reuse means using an object or material again, either for its original purpose or for a similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material. CVSan’s new Reuse Maps highlight businesses in the CVSan community that practice reuse by selling reused items, repairing items (such as clothes, automobiles, etc.) or by providing other reuse services. Please patronize Castro Valley businesses such as these that practice reuse and reduce waste! Maps can be found at www.cvsan.org/ReuseMaps.

Construction Update

CVSan staff has been busy planning for the next sanitary sewer repair and rehabilitation project. The condition of our gravity sanitary sewer pipes under the roadways and in easements around Castro Valley are constantly being checked and data recorded in the form of video and inspection reports. Staff worked on this last year to develop a consistent, semi-automated system to review inspection data quickly and efficiently to identify defective pipe in need of repair or rehabilitation. The system then takes various other factors into account in order to prioritize the repairs.

Is it Broken? Fix it!

Often, if something is broken, our first reaction is to discard it. A twist on the old adage is “Is it Broken? Fix It!” Repairing broken toys, electronic devices, and household items; or mending holes in clothes and linens, can save you money and save space in the landfill. CVSan has chosen a Reuse theme this year; repairing items instead of discarding them has a positive environmental impact. You might pick up a new skill or two to share with friends or family. So get out those tools or sewing kits and start fixing!

High-Tech Tools Protect Our System

CVSan currently has eight ultra-sonic area/velocity flow meters installed in manholes at various locations throughout Castro Valley. CVSan is hoping that the Castro Valley area receives at least a couple of two-year storm events (equivalent to about 2.5 inches of rain in a 24-hour period) during this wet weather season so that our sewer system model can be updated to show where CVSan may need to increase our sewer system pipe diameter.

Earth Day Event to Support Local Charities

Mark your calendars for CVSan’s annual “Go Green, CV Clean!” Earth Day event on Saturday, April 25, 2015. In 2014, Earth Day volunteers cleaned up Castro Valley while donating their time. They also earned approximately $1,635 for local charities in Castro Valley. This year, volunteers can do the same! Each volunteer will have the opportunity to select one of three local charitable organizations to receive $5 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 information and to register as a volunteer.

Set-Out Reminders

A reminder: recycling, organics, and garbage carts may only be set out for a maximum of 24 hours, per the County of Alameda and CVSan Code. Set out carts curbside (in the street with rear wheels against the curb) for collection by 6:00 a.m., with lids closed. Place bagged batteries on top of the blue recycling cart lid and flattened cardboard no larger than 4’x4’ next to the blue recycling cart. Place used motor oil in CVSan jugs and used oil filters in sealed plastic bags and set them on the ground next to your cart set-out. To request a used oil jug and bag, please call (510) 537-5500.