General Manager’s Message

For CVSan, heavy rainfall can make for busy days on the job. That’s because rainwater can get into the sanitary sewer pipelines. When stormwater unnecessarily enters our pipes, it costs us more due to increased maintenance and wastewater treatment costs. This excess flow of water into the sanitary sewer pipelines can also overwhelm the system, causing backups and in some cases overflows.

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a greater than 80 percent chance that El Nino will last into early spring. This means we are likely to see a late and wet winter.

We can all help to keep the sanitary sewer system running well. First, make sure your private sewer lateral is flowing properly and is not capturing rainwater. This means no roof gutters or storm drain lines should be connected to the sewer lines on your property. Second, make sure the storm drains on your property are clear of debris that could cause a backup of rainwater onto your property. Lastly, in the event you see a sewer overflow, please call CVSan’s emergency number at 510-506-5821.

While the rains are needed in California and higher than normal storms are predicted for this winter, it is anticipated that one wet winter will not solve the drought. I’d like to encourage us all to continue to conserve water inside our homes and reduce or eliminate outside water use to the greatest extent possible. CVSan is proud of its designation as a Water Smart business by EBMUD for the past several years. Water conservation is everyone’s responsibility!

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

Construction Updates

CVSan’s annual gravity sewer repair and rehabilitation project will begin in the coming months. As construction begins, residents will see our contractor’s backhoes, dump trucks and work vehicles throughout Castro Valley. Please remember to use caution when driving near construction sites.

This construction project will consist of various sewer main repairs and replacements both in easements on private property as well as in the public roadways.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we work diligently to improve our aging sewer system.

A Day in the Field with Maintenance Workers

What? Where? When? How? Maintenance Workers at CVSan must come up with answers to these critical questions each day. What needs to be done to ensure that pipes stay flowing – and not overflowing onto streets or into homes? Where are the pipes that need to be maintained and inspected so that priority can be given to problem areas? When will workers be able to access those areas so that the work can actually be done? How can the work be done safely and with the least impact to the community?

Lots of questions! Our team has the answers.
After-hour Sewer Emergency Response

CVSan’s wastewater collection service is a 24/7 operation. Occasionally, issues will arise after normal business hours—ranging from slow-running drains, to backups into basements or bathrooms. CVSan has maintenance personnel on standby to assist residents and business owners with these types of after-hours emergencies. They can help determine if an issue is caused by malfunctions in the publically owned wastewater collection system and act as needed, or advise residents on steps to take if the problem is on their end. On average, maintenance personnel respond to 2-3 after-hour emergency calls a month. Callers can speak directly to our maintenance personnel, making responses faster and more efficient.

Girl Scouts Harvest Tree Fruit for Those in Need

Inspired by CVSan’s ongoing educational message to prevent food waste, local Girl Scout mom Dao Dooley recently organized a tree fruit gleaning project for her daughter’s troop. On Thursday, November 19, Girls Scouts Olivia Dooley, Cynthia Lee, Ryan Williams, Mikaela Dergert, and Kailey Emmons harvested extra apples and lemons from local trees in CV and donated them to the Faith Lutheran Church Pantry on Redwood Road. Dooley says CVSan’s advertisements about donating extra tree fruit and garden produce from home struck a chord with her. She joined the CVSan Green Hearts Volunteer Team and also received a donation from CVSan for equipment to complete their first effort. As of the end of January, they had rescued and donated 600 pounds of produce.

Construction Planning: A Look at Wastewater Permits and Fees

Thorough planning for your residential construction or remodeling projects includes contacting various agencies about relevant standards and necessary permits. For any work that includes the sewer line, the agencies to check with include CVSan. CVSan regulates the lateral line from outside the building foundation to the connection at the sewer main. While the property owner owns—and is therefore responsible for—the building sewer lateral, CVSan requires a permit for any work done to it, whether abandoning an old lateral, relocating an existing one or adding to the lateral for a building expansion. This process ensures the work is done right. To learn more about the permits and fees, please call, we are glad to help.

Join us on Earth Day!

In 2015, Earth Day volunteers picked here picked up litter, pulled weeds, and earned $1,990 for local charities in Castro Valley. Mark your calendar for CVSan’s next “Earth Day: Clean-Up & Recycle” events on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Register to volunteer at www.cvsan.org/ED. You’ll get to select one of three organizations to receive $5 from CVSan on your behalf.

On the same day, CVSan will be holding a recycling event at Canyon Middle School from 8:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. CVSan residents and businesses can drop off e-waste, documents for shredding, cooking oil, and tires, and pick up free compost—three bags per household, first come, first served. Construction & Demolition debris vouchers are also available. Visit cvsan.org/RecyclesDay

“Horizontal Levee” Project in the Spotlight

One innovative construction project at the Oro Loma/Castro Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Lorenzo got well-deserved attention during last November’s Open House. Over 300 participants joined representatives from Save-the-Bay, the Bay Institute, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, UC Berkeley, surrounding cities, special districts, and community organizations to see the project’s progress firsthand. The construction at the Bay’s edge is creating a wetland filled with native marsh vegetation that gently slopes inland, similar to a ramp. Dubbed a “horizontal levee,” this type of buffer zone can absorb storm surges and provide natural protection from flooding at a fraction of the cost of traditional levees.

In addition, the project will create wildlife habitat and further filter wastewater that has already been processed at the treatment facility. To create the wetland, 160 Save-the-Bay volunteers and six staff have transplanted 43,000 native plant seedlings. They’re hoping to get another 27,000 into the ground by early spring. The project costs $9.1 million and is scheduled for completion in 2018. CVSan is contributing $3.1 million. A portion of the project is also being funded by the Integrated Regional Water Management Program Grant from the California Department of Water Resources.