

Status Report on the District's Discharge Permit Appeal

As you may recall from a previous newsletter article, the Napa Sanitation District appealed it's new discharge permit. The new permit was issued in July 2000 by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the San Francisco Bay, located in Oakland.

On December 5, 2001, the State Water Board finally instructed the Regional Board to change some of the conditions in the new permit. The District was gratified that the State Water Board agreed that some of the conditions were unreasonable.

However, other conditions remain in the permit which would require the District to spend significant public funds on

treatment controls that are not reasonable or not required by law or regulation. And other Bay Area agencies agree. The District is going to court, and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) has signed on as a party to the case. BACWA is the trade association which represents agencies that discharge most of the treated municipal wastewater into San Francisco Bay and its tributaries.

The District works hard to protect the environment responsibly by collecting and treating our community's wastewater at a reasonable cost. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the General Manager, Mike Alexander, at (707) 258-6000 extension 511, or by email at

We Want To Hear From You...

The Board of Directors and Management of the Napa Sanitation District encourage communication both written and verbal.

We like to hear from you. We want to discuss those sanitation district issues that are important to you.

Please be sure to include your name, address and phone numbers so that we can provide you with a timely response.

Some of the Napa Valley's premier vineyards are among the agricultural users of Napa Sanitation District's recycled water.



Recycling Resources

Napa Sanitation District
950 Imola Avenue West
Napa, CA 94559



THE PIPELINE

Bill Henderson, Chairman • Mark Lutz, Vice Chairman • Joann Bazzani • Charles Gravel • Dr. Arthur Hespell • Board Members

Budget Surplus

As has been the case in the past several years, the Napa Sanitation District expects a budget surplus for the current fiscal year. While the budget surplus varies from year to year, this year's surplus, after reserves have been set aside for capital and operating budgets, is estimated to be \$200,000. The surpluses are the direct result of cooperation between labor and management at NSD with a mission to streamline the District, improving the efficiency of the operation.

According to Mike Alexander, the District's General Manager, a number of factors contribute to the surplus.

In 1999 the district instituted an early retirement incentive program. Eight employees chose to take advantage of this option, enabling the consolidation of several redundant management positions.

Another benefit of the early retirement program was that it expanded the career ladder at the District, opening up opportunities for the advancement of other sanitation professionals. In a recent analysis, it was determined that the early retirement program has saved more than \$500,000 net over the last 3 years.

The early retirement incentive program yielded additional opportunities to reduce District operating costs including increasing the level of automation, and altering some work procedures and duties. The district eliminated redundant or outdated tasks and has utilized cost saving opportunities through public and private partnerships.

With these proactive measures, there's been no sewer service rate increases during the three year tenure of the new Management team at NSD. The current 10-year financial projection (pro forma) indicates that these cost saving measures instituted over the last three years, will continue to offset the impact of inflation, resulting in no rate increases in the foreseeable future, unless required to comply with new and currently unknown regulations.

Breathe Deeply... Take a Deep Breath

General Manager Mike Alexander reports that we've just completed the second winter odor season with no odors from the Soscol Plant. The Napa Sanitation District is optimistic that the odor problem is under control for the long term.

Why were the odors so bad in previous years? First, it's important to understand how wastewater is treated. After primary treatment at the Soscol facility where heavy organic material settles out, wastewater flows into the first of four oxidation ponds, which cover a total of 340 acres. The water moves from one pond to the next. Bacteria remove additional organic material, resulting in cleaner water. It takes a total of 120 days for the water to progress through all four ponds. The water is then pumped to the plant where it is further processed before being released into the Napa River. The secondary treatment of the water in the ponds is where odor used to be a problem.

The upper two to three feet of the 10' deep wastewater ponds contain aerobic (oxygen using) bacteria. Algae also grows in the ponds. The algae generates the oxygen that the bacteria needs to metabolize (digest) the organic material in the water, thereby removing it and cleaning the water. The trick is to keep enough oxygen in the pond for the aerobic bacteria to do their work.

In winter, with shorter days and the low angle of the sun's rays, the ponds receive less direct sunlight. Combine that with frequent cloud cover or fog and the amount of algae able to grow in the ponds is significantly reduced and the aerobic bacteria start to die off. Anaerobic bacteria replace it, which release Hydrogen sulfide gas as a byproduct of their digestion process. Hydrogen sulfide is the pungent, wrinkle-your-nose odor Napan's used to smell in the area of the Butler Bridge on south Highway 29.

To combat this process, several measures were installed two years ago. One project involved the installation of injectors to pump liquid oxygen into the ponds. Another odor-combating measure was to pump the cleanest water from the last pond into other ponds, re-circulating it.

This year, with new clarifiers from the wastewater processing plant settling out some of the organic matter, cleaner water is pumped into the ponds initially, reducing the ponds' organic loading. When American Canyon's new treatment plant goes on line, it will further reduce the ponds' organic loading, decreasing the amount of wastewater by approximately one million gallons, enabling the ponds to process the wastewater all year long without producing odor.

The Soscol plant processes a staggering amount of wastewater. The figure for 2001 was three billion two hundred twenty-two million two hundred fifteen thousand gallons of water! (3,222,215,000)

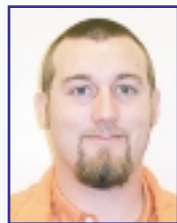
Yet, despite the enormous volume of water passing through the ponds, Alexander predicts that the process will be odor free for the foreseeable future. So breathe deeply.

PRESORTED
STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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PERMIT #70

Promotions & Awards

The Napa Sanitation District is proud to announce the following promotions:

Josh DeGarmo



Josh has been with NSD for over a year. He has been promoted to Collection System Worker I from his previous position of Collection System Worker in training. Josh was born and raised in Napa, where he lives with his wife and they are expecting their first baby.

Nick Becker



Nick was recently promoted to Collection System Worker I from his previous position of Collection System Worker in training. He has been with the district for over a year. He lives in Fairfield with his wife and two children.

Francisco Ramirez



A NSD employee for over a year, Francisco has been promoted to Collection System Worker I from his previous position of Collection System Worker in training. He lives in Napa.

Daniel Fritz



Daniel was promoted early this year to Operator in training from his previous position of Plant Attendant. He has been with the district for about a year. Daniel lives in American Canyon and has one daughter.

Jeff Jones



Jeff was promoted from Plant Attendant to Operator in training in March. He lives in Napa and has been an employee since May of last year.

Flood Control Update

Napa Sanitation District's portion of the massive Napa Flood Control Project is underway. Because of the relocation of railroad track and the Maxwell Bridge, the NSD needs to do both demolishing and rebuilding.

To allow for the relocation of the Wine Train railroad tracks, the first order of business is to demolish the abandoned wastewater treatment site on Imola Avenue and to relocate sewer line.

The next portion of the first phase involves installation of a 54" trunk main line between Oil Company Road and Imola Avenue. This is currently under construction.

Relocation of the Maxwell Bridge requires the Napa Sanitation District to install 3000 feet of 24" diameter force main between Coombs Street and Imola Avenue. A force main is a line under pressure, as opposed to a gravity line.

A major portion of the line relocation takes place under the Napa River. The traditional method to do this, trenching the river, poses potential environmental risks, so a new technology called a micro tunnel is being employed. This involves tunneling beneath the river without disturbing the external riverbed.

Both projects are estimated to total \$5

Survey Results

Thanks to all who responded to our recent survey. Out of the surveys, a whopping 73% of readers were "extremely satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the service received from the Napa Sanitation District. 70% of the respondents noted The Pipeline was "extremely or very useful" in introducing and familiarizing them with the NSD and 66% of the survey results rated The Pipeline as "extremely or very useful" in learning more about the NSD.

Suggestions for future articles in The Pipeline were varied and creative. Ideas ranged from water conservation and "dumping no-no's" to

million. The Flood Control District, the NSD and the City of Napa jointly fund the projects. The City of Napa is co-funding because the Maxwell Bridge relocation is their project, which necessitates the new force main installation.

"It's a coordinated effort," Tim Healy, Technical Services Manager, said, citing the fact that the City of Napa, Napa County, the Army Corps of Engineers and private contractors all have responsibilities in the Flood Control Project.

"When there are a multitude of agencies and individual companies the biggest challenge in the project is coordinating the work."

Another challenge is handling environmentally sensitive areas such as the river. Healy stresses that keeping the environment safe is a top concern on the project and that the micro tunnel should lessen any detrimental impact on the river.

The Napa Sanitation District is also faced with changing the current entrance to their Imola facility. When the rail-

road is relocated, it will eliminate Imola Avenue access to the water plant. A new road to the facility is planned off Gasser Drive, near South Napa Marketplace.

The force main and trunk main projects should be completed by the end of the year. Because most of the work is being completed on district property, automobile traffic should not be affected.

water treatment education. The Napa Sanitation District encourages article ideas and comments. Please send them to Napa Sanitation District, 950 Imola Avenue West, Napa, CA 94559, or phone us at (707) 258-6000. Please include your full name and mailing address with your comments.

Sewer, Not Garbage...

In some cities, Sanitation refers to garbage service, but not in Napa. Napa Sanitation District takes care of the sewers. If you are looking for the garbage company, you want Napa Garbage @ 255-5200.



Down The Drain To Water The Lawn.....

Water gurgles down the drain. But where does the water go from the dirty dishes? The shower? The toilet?

Much of that wastewater will be specially treated and soon used to irrigate the Napa Municipal Golf Course and other similar facilities, with a few smaller landscaping needs along the way.

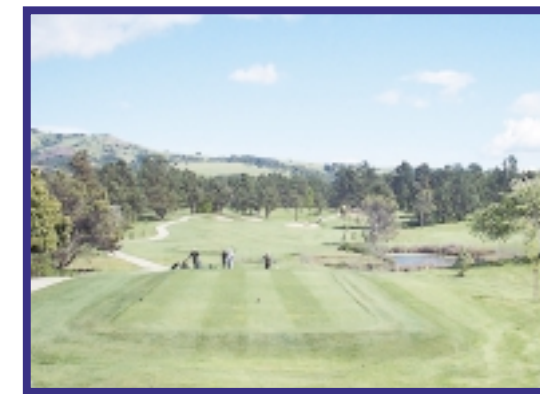
This specially treated wastewater meets the highest standard of recycled water quality under the California Department of Health Services' stringent Title 22 unrestricted use standard. While it will be currently used only for irrigation, commercial manufacturing potential is possible in the future.

Starting this month, contractors will begin installing approximately 15,000 feet of recycled 24" diameter pipe for the water. The construction project is estimated at \$3.8 million, paid for by connection fees collected primarily from new development. No sewer service fees will be used to fund the construction.

Why is this important to our water conservation concerns?

Law prohibits the Napa Sanitation District from discharging recycled water into the Napa River between May 1st and October 31st every year. That means that currently during the dry season, the wastewater has to be stored in holding tanks or ponds.

Presently the golf course, etc. use drinking-quality water for landscape purposes. Using



recycled water for irrigation frees up drinking-quality water, releasing potable water for other purposes.

Extending our use of recycled water, made possible by the new pipeline, helps Napa in several ways:

1. It is environmentally beneficial.
2. It frees up drinking water for higher and better uses.
3. Recycled water is drought-proof. In times of future water crisis, grass and plants in the areas receiving the recycled water can remain lush and green without impacting other water resources.

Tim Healy, Technical Service Manager, estimates the recycled water will be available for use by the end of this summer.

In the near future, Napa County residents can drive a golf ball at the Municipal Golf Course knowing that the lawns and fairways will be green for all the summers to come.

Pollution Prevention. You Can Help Water Pollution...

Water pollution comes from many types of activities. While industrial and manufacturing facilities are sometimes the source of water pollution, activities conducted at smaller businesses and even in our homes can often contribute to water pollution. Many agencies in the Bay Area are working together to prevent materials containing these pollutants from entering wastewater treatment plants and getting released to the Bay and other local waterways.

Some of these materials include mercury and pesticides. Often, these constituents enter waterways as a result of being disposed of improperly by residents and small businesses.

Napa Sanitation District co-sponsored a program last spring to exchange mercury fever thermometers for mercury free thermometers.

If you missed this event and still have mercury fever thermometers, other mercury containing products, or old pesticides call the Recycling Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 257-9292 to find out how and where to dispose of these items.

Check out one of these internet sites for more information.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>
University of California Statewide IPM Project
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/IPM/>
IPM Network Western Region

Promotions & New Employees

The Napa Sanitation District is proud to announce the following promotions:

Steve Bradley



An NSD employee since last May, Steve was recently promoted to Equipment Maintenance Trainee from his previous position as Plant Attendant. He

lives in Napa.

Jeff Dutra



Jeff was promoted to Operations & Maintenance Supervisor from his previous position as Operator III. He will supervise the operations and maintenance departments at

the Soscol Plan. He has been with the NSD since 1997 and lives in Napa with his wife and two children.

The NSD would like to welcome the following new employees:

Regina Batailler



Regina was recently hired as an Office Assistant. She lives in Napa.

Adriane Insogna



Adriane was hired last fall as an Engineering Technician. A recent Cal Poly graduate, she was raised in Calistoga and resides in Napa.