

# THE PIPELINE

Ed Henderson, Chairman • Mark Luce, Vice Chairman • Joann Busenbark, Charles Gravett, Dennis Scherzinger Board Members

## Pipeline to the Pipeline.....

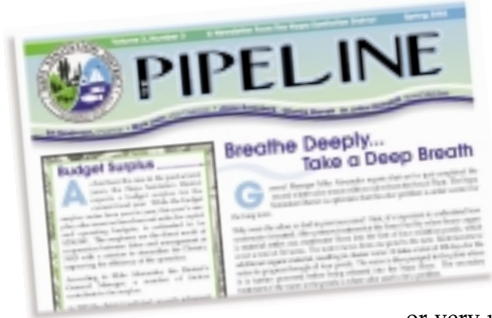
Where can you get up-to-date, accurate information on the Napa Sanitation District? You can always call the NSD office, or you can simply refer to your issue of Pipeline, this newsletter.

Something you may not know about this newsletter is that, because it is produced by a public agency, all the facts cited are available for public scrutiny. It's a simple matter to make a Public record request for easy access to all documentation to verify or substantiate any information in the newsletter.

This isn't the case with private media sources. They are not required by law to provide verification of what they report. They can hide behind a cloak of confidentiality and sensationalize District issues.

Pipeline readers can be confident that this newsletter is a reliable source of District information. By law, we must be factual and, by law, readers have the right to all documents used in our articles. Other media may publish incomplete or biased reports that

misrepresent issues, possibly leading the public to make ill-informed decisions that could lead to potentially serious conditions.



We're not extravagant, but we're proud of our newsletter. It costs about 67 cents per person per issue. We keep costs low by our mailing techniques and utilizing tax rolls for computerized addresses that eliminate duplications. In fact, we take advantage of anything that will reduce costs yet still produce a professional, attractive newsletter for you.

Most of you agree. In the last survey, 70% of the respondents noted the Pipeline was "extremely or very useful" in introducing and familiarizing them with the NSD. If you like what you see, let us know. If not, we want to hear from you, too. The Board of Directors and NSD management are always eager to hear about the Sanitation District issues that are important to you.

Call or write us with your comments. Be sure to include your name and mailing address so we can respond to you, and keep reading Pipeline.

**Sanitary Sewers, Not Storm Sewers...**


The Napa Sanitation District wants to remind you that the City of Napa Water Division handles the street storm sewers. To report a flooded street or a plugged catch basin on the street, contact the City of Napa at 257-9520, extension 7404.

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



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 PERMIT #70

### NSD Commitment To Preserve The Environment

NSD General Manager Mike Alexander calls the Napa Sanitation District "true environmentalists."

"We take domestic and commercial wastewater and clean it, making no profits, yet meeting all water, air and hazardous waste standards."

The Napa Sanitation District works closely with the Friends of the River as well as the Air Quality and Water Quality Boards. It actively seeks citizen input and insures that their systems are constantly improved.

The District recently created a new full-time, high-level position titled Pollution Prevention & Source Control Officer. "The purpose of the new officer is to monitor and enforce the District's rules that are designed to reduce the pollutants entering the rivers," said Alexander. "The more pollutants we can keep out of the river, the more we reduce our costs and help the environment."

With the whole North Bay environment in mind, the Napa Sanitation District recently undertook the task of redefining their Mission Statement. Alexander said the current Mission Statement is too limited.

"Updating the Mission Statement will highlight that the Napa Sanitation District is responsible for collecting, treating and disposing of wastewater," said Alexander. "We need a broader Mission Statement, one that is not only concerned with just the Napa River, but with the whole environment."

## \$66 Million... Capital Program

The Napa Sanitation District recently approved a 5-year, \$66 million Capital Improvement Plan. This plan outlines projects and defines the District's capital needs.

The plan is reviewed and updated annually, with various projects added or combined as needed. The costs for the plan are split between two funds, the Expansion Fund at \$43 million and the Capital Fund at \$23 million. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, these projects will be completed with out new rate increases.

To be classified as a Capital Project rather than a maintenance project, the work must extend the useful life of the facility by more than one year, and cost at least \$3,000.00. The Expansion Fund covers projects that provide additional capacity. The primary sources of funding for expansion projects are connection fees, bond proceeds and the sale of reclaimed water. The Capital Fund covers projects that repair/replace or acquire new facilities that improve the performance or safety of the facility without increasing the capacity. The main source of funding for the Capital Fund is sewer service charges.

Over the next five years, the District is planning approximately 15 projects, both long and short-term.

Carl Jacobson, Capital Program Manager, has seen an increase in projects in the two years he has been with the District. "We are focusing on prioritizing and getting projects underway."

- Some of the projects include:
- Safety related projects, which receive the District's highest priority.
  - Pollution prevention
  - Renovating pump stations, such as Stonecrest off the Silverado Trail, and the west and north Napa stations
  - Improving alarms and security at the treatment plant and pump stations
  - Replacing or improving ventilation at the treatment plant and pump stations
  - Reclamation Pipelines
  - Inflow and Infiltration Reduction
  - Process Optimization studies to analyze plant operations

All of the projects relate to the collection, treatment and reclamation of wastewater for the City of Napa and portions of the county. "We want people to know what they're getting for their sewer service dollars," said Jacobson.

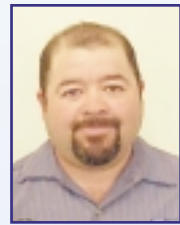
The NSD would like to welcome the following new employees:



**Dusty Maynard** was recently hired as a Plant Attendant. He lives in Napa.



**Steve Edwards** is a new Plant Attendant. Steve lives in Vallejo.



**Refugio Lopez** was hired as a Plant Attendant. He and his family live in American Canyon.



**Cyndi Bolden** was hired in June for the position of Accounting Technician. Cyndi lives in Vacaville and previously

worked in the Auditor/Controller's Office for the County of Solano.



**Bill Gaffney** recently accepted the new position of Pollution Prevention and Source Control Officer, which is detailed further

in this edition of Pipeline. Bill has worked for the NSD for 25 years; his previous responsibility was as Lab Supervisor. He lives in Napa.

## North Bay Watershed Association Membership

The District recently approved membership in the North Bay Watershed Association. Joining this association involved a significant financial commitment of \$26,000 for the first fiscal year, but the District's board felt the benefits were considerable.

The North Bay Watershed Association is made up of public agency representatives and regional governments. It is committed to working cooperatively on a set of regional approaches to the problems and issues surrounding the area's common watershed.

The largest member of the association is the Sonoma County Water Agency, followed by the counties of Sonoma and Marin, and cities such as Petaluma, San Rafael, and Sonoma. Many other North Bay sanitation and water Districts are also members.

Some of the benefits of being a member of the NBWA are their public outreach programs, their community activities, a Web site and their legislative action programs.

One proposed NBWA project that could have future impact on the Napa area involves pumping treated wastewater to flush salt ponds. Rather than simply discharging wastewater into the river, this salt marsh flushing project would allow NSD the opportunity to release high quality reclaimed water to the salt ponds where it can help reclaim those areas for wildlife.

The water would flood the ponds in a controlled manner, leaching the salt slowly over time. The

salt would gradually return to the San Francisco Bay—over a fifteen-year period—so that the bay's ecosystem wouldn't be harmed.

With the ponds cleansed, the areas would be restored to their natural estuarial conditions.

There is another local benefit to this project.

The project would include grant monies to pay for a portion of the pipeline needed to get the treated wastewater across the Napa River to the salt marshes. This pipeline could be very important to farmers in the Carneros region of the county.

There is an increasing demand in the Carneros region for water and the groundwater is becoming depleted. The District's treated wastewater is top-quality water, which is excellent for agricultural irrigation use. Although the Napa Sanitation District has the water distribution rights for the area, it would not be cost effective to run a pipeline across the river, in part because vineyards, which are prevalent in Carneros, use only about one-quarter of the water as golf courses or pastureland and, thus, do not generate sufficient revenues to pay for the pipe.

With the grants expected from the salt pond project, it could lower the pipeline cost to NSD and make the pipeline feasible.

NSD Board Director Dennis Scherzinger is Napa Sanitation District's delegate to the NBWA. He reports that the salt water ponds project would be included in the recently passed bond issue.

## Partnering

The Napa Sanitation District works hard to get the most for its rate payers dollars by working cooperatively with other agencies when there is an opportunity for economies of scale.

One example of cooperation, not competition, is at Napa State Hospital (NSH). NSH doesn't have funding to construct a pipeline to utilize the district's reclaimed water for irrigation. The district analyzed the situation and found a solution.

When NSD has treated water it cannot sell, the water is disposed of by spraying over an irrigation field. Besides generating no revenue, treated water disposed of in that manner also involves costs for labor, energy and equipment. Those expenses could be avoided by selling the water to NSH.

A plan is being finalized to build the necessary system for the hospital, who will purchase the water at a lower cost than the water they are now using. Once the plan is completed, it will be reviewed by the state.

The total project is estimated at \$5 million, with the NSH portion estimated at \$2 million, which will be funded by a low interest loan from the WasteReuse Association. The revenue used to repay the loan will come from the sale of reclaimed water, insuring the project can be competed without new rate increases.

Phase One of this project is to get the water line up to the NSH property boundary and begin designing the remainder of piping and reservoir. Construction could begin in a year.

## Pollution Prevention & Source Control Officer.....

Who's responsible for preventing water pollution? We all are.

That's the message new Pollution Prevention & Source Control Officer Bill Gaffney wants to get out. The PPSC Officer is the first position at the Napa Sanitation District dedicated solely to the purpose of pretreatment and pollution prevention. As the PPSC Officer, Gaffney will develop and put into place the Pretreatment Program and Pollutant Minimization/Pollution Prevention Program. Gaffney has worked for the NSD for 25 years, most recently as Lab Supervisor.

While a large part of his new position involves inspections, permits and investigation, Gaffney believes that the first step in his new job is public education and community involvement.

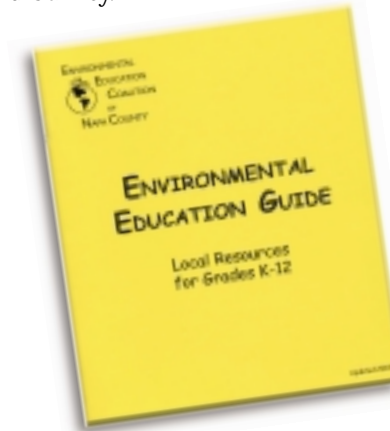
"It's not just about command and control," said Gaffney.

The ultimate goal of the program is to reduce and eliminate pollutants in wastewater before the water comes into the treatment plant. Pollutants such as mercury, copper, pesticides, organic pollutants and oil and grease upset the balance of the treatment plant.

Some industries are specifically identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as those who potentially could cause an adverse effect on water. Following EPA guidelines, Gaffney routinely inspects those industries in our area to ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations. He works with those businesses to review permit applications and follow-up on compliance enforcement. He reports regularly to

the State Water Resources Board and the EPA.

But Gaffney feels it's not just the industrial sector that needs to be educated to reduce pollutants in wastewater. "From homeowners to school kids, we all have to do our part to reduce pollution," said Gaffney.



A copy of the Environmental Education Guide was recently distributed to almost every teacher in Napa County. This "Guide" provides teachers with a number of environmental activities and tours for their students.

One of the favorite parts of his job involves working with the public and going out to schools to present ways to eliminate pollutants in water. He's happy to arrange water recycling facility tours to more closely explain the impact pollutants have when they reach the plant. Gaffney also works with other local city and county agencies to tie their pollution prevention activities together.

"It's a continuous effort," Gaffney said. "We may not have all the solutions, but we're constantly working to reduce pollution."

## Eminent Domain

The term "Eminent Domain" is used when a governmental agency acquires land for any public purpose. Napa Sanitation District is currently involved in an eminent domain issue with the Flood Control District regarding property on Imola Avenue owned by NSD.

"This issue is interesting because it is two government agencies working together," said Mike Nave, of Meyers, Nave, Riback, Silver & Wilson, legal counsel for NSD. Nave explains that the Flood Control District needs NSD land for flood control plans and to move the Wine Train tracks.

The Flood Control District requires two NSD parcels of land. The first parcel is on the east side of the Maxwell Bridge. The second parcel is on the west side of the river.

NSD leased the second parcel to a tenant, who expected to receive compensation for early termination of the lease. NSD and the Flood Control District are currently in negotiation with the tenant as to what compensation is necessary.

If negotiations fail to resolve the issue, NSD has asked the Flood Control District to file an Eminent Domain lawsuit to end the disagreement. If a lawsuit is filed against NSD, Nave terms it a "friendly condemnation process."

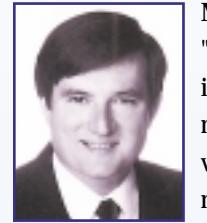
Mayor Ed Henderson agrees. "This is a friendly legal procedure, supported by both the Flood Control District and Napa Sanitation District," said Henderson.

Both the Flood Control District and NSD are optimistic that this matter will be resolved shortly.

**Ed Henderson:** "We are making every effort to keep down our costs so that rates won't have to be raised for a long time."



**Mark Luce:** "Our community is positioned to reduce our use of water while also reducing our discharge to the river through progressive reclamation efforts."



**JoAnn Busenbark:** "We'd like to encourage citizens to learn more about the reclaimed water project by touring the plant and seeing the high quality of the water."



**Dennis Scherzinger:** "We want the district to continue to construct sewer repair projects that reduce storm water inflow and infiltration into the sewer system. This would reduce future costs."



**Charles Gravett:** "Regarding keeping pollutants out of the water, remember, if you're going to put it in, you'll have to pay to take it out!"

