



THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 2

SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

WINTER 2015

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

It shall be the mission of the Stege Sanitary District to plan and operate a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection and transfer system for the present and future customers of the District.

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STEGE SAVES WATER First District to Use EBMUD Recycled Water

Water is precious, especially in California where four years of drought have left rivers dry and reservoirs the lowest they have ever been. Even if this winter is wet, as has been forecast, California will need to conserve water as the state's population grows and agricultural, industrial, and environmental interests place ever greater demands on this limited resource.

The District uses over 6,000 gallons of water a month for regularly scheduled flushing of the sewer lines and for spot cleaning. Since early spring 2015, one third of that water has been recycled water that EBMUD makes available for commercial purposes through its Recycled Water Truck Program.

Recycled water from EBMUD is safe water that has been treated to the highest level and then further processed through either microfiltration or sand filtration and extra disinfection.



Recycled water treated to this high level meets the rigorous and protective standards set by the California Department of Public Health and qualifies for unrestricted uses.

Stege is the first municipality in EBMUD's district to take advantage of the Recycled Water Truck Program.

Since recycled water from EBMUD is free while there is a per gallon charge for water from a hydrant, by switching to recycled water, the District not only helps to conserve water, it also saves rate-payers approximately \$500 a month. **S**



Sewer Service Charge

Sewer Service Charges cover the cost of the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements to the sanitary sewer system. Stege Sanitary District collects and delivers sanitary sewer flows from its service area and delivers it to East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for wastewater treatment. EBMUD charges a separate fee for wastewater treatment, and this is in addition to the Stege Sewer Service Charge.

Residential properties are charged a flat fee while non-residential and commercial properties are charged at a metered rate of water used. Sewer Service Charges are collected through the annual property tax bills issued by the County. A sample property tax bill is shown below. The fee shown for residential properties is an annual rate. The line item STEGE SEWER CHG are the fees assessed to your property by Stege Sanitary District. **S**

Monthly Sewer Service Charge Comparison



SPECIAL TAXES & ASSESSMENTS			
DESCRIPTION	CODE	INFORMATION	AMOUNT
WCCUSD PARCEL TAX	* CL	(800) 273-5167	\$150.90
STRM DRAIN RECONST	DA	(800) 676-7516	\$58.00
MOSQUITO & VECTOR	DV	(925) 867-3400	\$3.12
EMERGENCY MED B	DY	(925) 646-4690	\$10.00
AC TRANSIT-MEAS VV	FA	(877) 299-1190	\$96.00
EL CERRITO-SWM CTR	G6	(925) 676-7516	\$58.46
FED STORMWATER A-5	IH	(925) 313-2023	\$38.00
WCCUSD ASSESSMENT	JA	(800) 273-5167	\$72.00
STEGE SEWER CHG	JX	(510) 524-4668	\$242.00
EASTBAY TRAILS LLD	* KA	(800) 676-7516	\$5.44
EBMD WET WEATHER	KO	(510) 287-0275	\$140.00
EL CERRITO ST LT	MZ	(800) 676-7516	\$72.00
WCC HEALTH-PRCL TX	NR	(866) 807-6864	\$52.00
EBRPD-MEAS CC-ZN 1	* NT	(800) 676-7516	\$12.00

Don't Connect Roof or Yard Drains to the Sanitary Sewer System



Piping runoff water into your sanitary sewer system, either from house gutters or a sump pump, is illegal. To do so violates District regulations and other federal and local ordinances. Any illegal drain(s) must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system and re-routed to the appropriate storm drainage system. Please contact the City (or the County for Kensington) for assistance with storm runoff requirements. **S**

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget

REVENUE

Sewer Operation Fund

Non Operating Income:	
Interest	5,000
Miscellaneous	21,000
Operating Income:	
Permit & Inspection Fees	15,000
Sewer Service Charges	2,435,000
Contracted Services	40,000
Subtotal	2,516,000

Capital Fund

Non-Operating Income:	
Interest	5,000
Operating Income:	
Property Tax	339,000
Capital Service Charges	2,242,000
Connection Fees	100,000
Subtotal	2,686,000

TOTAL REVENUE 5,202,000

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses:

Maintenance/Engineering	1,582,090
Pump Stations	15,060
Contracted Repairs	58,000
General & Administration	637,360
Subtotal	2,292,510

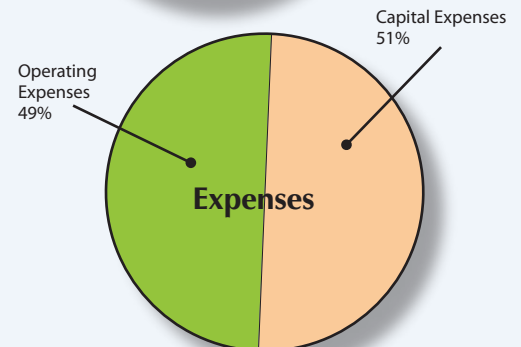
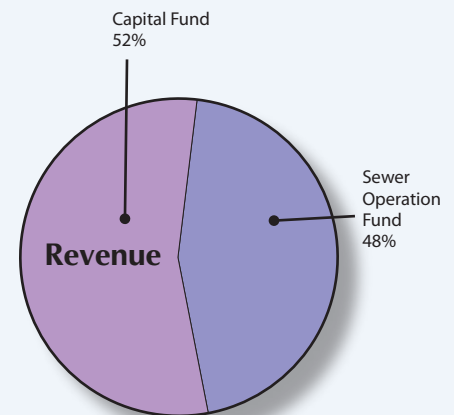
Capital Expenses

Capital Equipment	70,000
Debt Repayment -SRF Loan	148,200
Sewer Rehabilitation	2,156,000
Subtotal	2,374,200

TOTAL EXPENSES 4,666,710

Transfer to/(from) Reserves

Revenue	5,202,000
Expenses	(4,666,710)
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	535,290



The District adheres to an investment policy for reserve funds that complies with state statutes and stipulates safety, liquidity, and yields as the order of investment objectives. All currently invested funds are with the State Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

Keep FOG out of Drains

When Fats, Oils, or Grease (FOG) is washed down the drain, it doesn't go away. It sticks around, clogging household plumbing, the sewer lateral that connects a building to the sewer main, and even the main itself. Liquefied grease and animal fat will solidify and clog pipes, much like a clog in an artery. Liquid oils coat pipes and contribute to blockages.

When sewer mains overflow in the street, untreated wastewater can run into parks and waterways, causing environmental damage and posing health risks. Failure to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease is a health ordinance violation and property owners can be held responsible for the cost of cleanup and environmental damage resulting from blockage overflows.



Avoid a Clog




Keep Grease Out of Your Drain

EBMUD Pollution Prevention
Helping to Protect the Environment



Running hot water after the grease won't keep it from solidifying in the pipes once the water has cooled; neither will flushing detergent down the drain after the grease or using a garbage disposal unit. The only way to keep your pipes FOG-free is never to put fats, oils, or grease down the drain in the first place. Use a paper towel to wipe fat and grease off pots and pans before washing. Where accepted, place the used paper towel in your green waste cart for recycling. Liquid oil, including large amounts of oil from deep fryers, including turkey fryers, can be recycled at the El Cerrito Recycling Center on 7501 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito (next door to the District office). This service is free for residents. The El Cerrito recycling center cannot accept solid grease or fat. Used cooking oil is recycled into livestock feed

or biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel. For more information on the El Cerrito Recycling Center, visit www.el-cerrito.org or call (510) 215-4350.


For more information on how to keep pipes FOG-free, call EBMUD at (510) 287-1651 or visit www.ebmud.com. 



Helpful Reminders




Plumbing Contractors

For a list of plumbing contractors registered to work on private laterals in the District, visit www.stegesan.org. Please note, Stege recommends getting at least three bids before starting work. 


Public Meetings

The Stege Sanitary District is an independent Special District of the State of California. It operates and maintains 148 miles of sanitary sewers and two pumping stations serving over 33,000 residents in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex.

The Board of Directors generally meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 pm at the District's office located at 7500 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. You are encouraged to attend. 




Sewer Problems? CALL US FIRST!

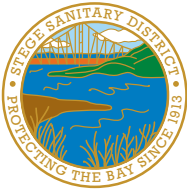
If you see water backing up into your home, **call Stege before you call a plumber.** That number is **(510) 524-4667**. It is answered 24/7 by a real person. The problem may be in your lateral, or it may be in the sewer main. If necessary, we will send a crew out to investigate. The inspection is free and we try to respond within one hour. 

www.stegesan.org

Here's some of what you will find on the District's web site:

- Latest announcements;
- List of registered plumbing contractors;
- Sewer Permit and Fee information;
- Board meeting schedule, approved minutes and latest agenda;
- FAQs. 





STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT
 7500 Schmidt Lane
 El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 (510) 524-4667

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 FREMONT CA
 PERMIT #68

To Contact Us: Phone: (510) 524-4668 or after hours (510) 524-4667 **Email:** staff@stegesan.org **Web:** www.stegesan.org

Spotlight on Service

PAUL SOO

Paul Soo is the District's Civil Engineer. As such, Paul is responsible for designing and overseeing the District's capital improvement project. Using digital recordings of the District's sewer lines, Paul determines which lines need repair or replacement and prioritizes the work based on need. He then oversees the bidding process and is responsible for working with contractors as project manager. Paul is also responsible for creating a maintenance schedule to service the District's 148 miles of sanitary sewer and two pumping stations.



Paul has been with the District for five years. Before that, he was with the City of Alameda for three years, and before that he worked in the private sector as a civil engineer. Having experienced both the private and public sectors, Paul has a particular appreciation of those who serve the public.

Paul has a Masters of Science Degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. **S**

KARY RICHARDSON

Kary Richardson is the District's Administrative Supervisor, a position he has held since December 2010. Before his present position, Kary was a bookkeeper for the District for four years.



Kary's duties include supervising administrative assistants and temporary employees, Human Resources administration, and anything having to do with financial accounting, including creating financial statements and conducting financial audits.

Kary has a BA in Business from Cal State East Bay. Before coming to Stege, Kary worked for Contra Costa Community College. All 19 years of his professional career have been

Transparency Certificate of Excellence Award

The Stege Sanitary District has again earned the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance

To receive the award, Stege had to complete essential governance transparency requirements, provide readily available information to the public through its web site, and demonstrate public outreach through such activities as newsletters and community programs. **S**



spent in the public sector in the financial realm.

Working in the physical environment of the new building and interacting with his coworkers are some of the best parts of his job. **S**