

# Pipeline



## PROVIDING **AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE**

**W**e are Central San. We provide an essential service that protects public health and the environment. We won't let COVID-19 or any other obstacle prevent us from doing our jobs safely and efficiently. See inside for all the ways we serve you, no matter the challenges we all face.





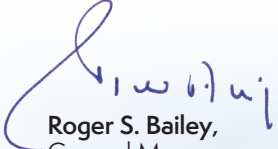
## INNOVATION AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE

**C** OVID-19 has changed all our lives in ways we could not have anticipated. Here at Central San, we've had to make significant changes in how we work to help keep our customers and employees healthy and safe. Yet, we've challenged ourselves to see these obstacles as opportunities. Through ingenuity and innovation, we're finding new ways to meet our customers' needs, even when we can't meet you face to face.

In this issue of *Pipeline*, we invite you to read more about some of the ways we are re-envisioning the work we do:

- ▶ We're participating in leading research to help scientists and health professionals better understand how wastewater agencies may help in the fight against pandemics through wastewater detection (see page 8)
- ▶ We're creating new virtual school programs to provide engaging, hands-on science education for students learning remotely (page 12)
- ▶ We launched virtual 360-degree treatment plant tours and speaker events so all our customers can see our behind-the-scenes operations, even while sheltering-at-home (page 13)
- ▶ We've implemented new safety procedures so we can continue providing popular services, such as household hazardous waste collection (page 11)

Though we've changed how we work, what hasn't changed is our core mission to protect public health and the environment. Throughout the pandemic, we've continued to do what we've always done: We're still collecting and cleaning millions of gallons of wastewater every day and returning the cleaned water safely back to the environment. We're still designing and building the critical infrastructure projects needed to ensure our system serves the community well now and into the future. Moreover, we're still working around the clock to provide the same, reliable sewer service you've always depended upon.



**Roger S. Bailey,**  
General Manager







## HELP DETERMINE ELECTION AREA BOUNDARIES

**Y**our voice counts! Central San is transitioning from at-large to by-area elections for our Board of Directors. We need your input to help determine election area boundaries. Under the former at-large election system, all five Board members were chosen by constituents from our entire service area. Under area-based elections, Central San will be divided into five separate election areas—called “divisions”—and voters residing in each area will select one representative to serve on the Board.

**Why is Central San making this change?** In July 2020, we received a certified letter from a Malibu-based law firm asserting that our at-large election system violated the California Voting Rights Act. Central San is not alone; many special districts, cities, and school districts have received similar letters in recent years. The letter did not provide any evidence of a violation. However, based on similar cases in other jurisdictions, litigation over this issue is usually very expensive—as much as \$1 million or more. To avoid this significant cost to customers, the Board decided to change the election system.

This fall, Central San held a series of public hearings to set preliminary election area boundaries to meet legal requirements. Next summer, after we receive the 2020 Census data for our service area, we’ll be holding additional hearings and reshaping the boundaries to their final form. Please plan to join us next summer to help ensure the best representation for all members of our community. Watch for more information in our spring *Pipeline* or visit: [centralsan.org/elections](https://centralsan.org/elections)

The new boundaries will be in effect starting with the November 2022 Board elections.

## AWARDS

### Central San Honored for 22 Years of 100% Permit Compliance

All wastewater agencies in the U.S. must meet stringent federal, state, and local water quality standards. Here at Central San, we work hard to ensure that every drop of water we clean meets or surpasses these standards before we discharge it into beautiful Suisun Bay. Recently we were honored with the 2019 Peak Performance Award - Platinum 22 from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. This award reflects Central San’s 22nd consecutive year without a single permit violation—the longest successful streak in California and among the top 20 in the nation.

We couldn’t have achieved this milestone without you! Thank you for helping to keep pollutants out of our sewer system and waterways.



### “Pipe Protectors” School Program Receives National Environmental Award

This past spring, our Pipe Protectors school education program was honored with a National Environmental Achievement Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The award recognizes agencies that have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community.

We’re very proud to be helping educate our next generation of environmental stewards through innovative, hands-on sewer science. To learn more about our school programs, see page 12.

**AND A FOOTNOTE ...**We’re humbled to share that the *Pipeline* received a 2020 EPIC Award from the California Association of Public Information Officials, their highest statewide honor for excellence in public information and communications. We’re grateful for all the customer feedback we’ve received as we strive to make this publication as informative and engaging as we can. Thank you for being a reader of the *Pipeline*!



## 2020 POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARD WINNERS

**C**ongratulations to this year's winners of our annual Pollution Prevention Awards! These local businesses are leaders in environmental protection, and we are proud to commend their commitment to preventing pollution in our community.



### POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARD WINNER

#### Del Cielo Brewing Company

701 Escobar Street, A, Martinez

**D**el Cielo Brewing Company runs their facility with reuse and efficiency at the forefront of their operations. They reuse yeast as many times as possible. The same is true for cleaning chemicals, which are collected and reused. Spent grains, hops, and yeast are given to a farmer for animal feed. Beer normally wasted during the canning process is collected and used to fill kegs, saving about 5-10 gallons of product per canning run. Trash and recycling are stored securely indoors. All of these actions prevent waste liquids and solids from entering the sanitary sewer and storm drain systems. Owner Luis Castro, left, raises a glass in celebration of winning this year's Pollution Prevention Award.





**POLLUTION PREVENTION PARTNER**



**Gregory Gardens Elementary School**

1 Corritone Court, Pleasant Hill

For an entire week in January, Gregory Gardens Elementary hosted Central San’s education team at their school site. Over 400 students explored the hands-on science of wastewater and came away with an understanding that the stuff we put in our water (and down our drains) does not disappear. This weeklong event would not have been possible without the help of (clockwise from above left) Gregory Gardens Principal Katie Koontz, Office Manager Kimberly Varela, and PTA Head Robin Greenslade.

**CENTRAL SAN** partners each year with Sustainable Contra Costa (SCOCO) to honor the county’s partners in preventing pollution to our environment.

**SUSTAINABLE CONTRA COSTA** is a community of citizens, educators, innovators, and organizations designing and building pathways to ecologically sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially just communities for all.

Since its inception in 2007, SCOCO has grown into one of the broadest reaching nonprofits in Contra Costa, providing tools and resources that help people take action.



**RECYCLED WATER BUSINESS CHAMPION**

**CarMax**

77 Chilpancingo Parkway, Pleasant Hill

CarMax built their facility in Pleasant Hill with recycled water in mind. Upon construction in 2019, they connected to Central San’s recycled water system to water their landscaping. They currently use about 5 million gallons of recycled water per year.



**RECYCLED WATER CITIZEN CHAMPIONS**

**Dave Biddle & Patricia Athenour**

Pleasant Hill

Dave and Patricia are a recycled water power couple! From July 2019 to June 2020, they visited Central San’s recycled water fill station 168 times and used 33,600 gallons of recycled water for use on their home landscaping.



## THE TRUE COST OF WIPES

**S**o-called “flushable” wipes might seem like an affordable option. But when those wipes are flushed down the drain, we all end up paying for them over and over again. Because most wipes are made of plastic, they don’t break down in water like toilet paper does. They remain largely intact as they pass through our system, creating costly havoc all along their journey, from your home, to our sewers and facilities, to the environment. You can help protect our pipes—and your pocketbook—by flushing only human waste and toilet paper.

Here are a few ways wipes end up costing much more than you might think:

**\$** Messy and expensive sewage back-ups in your home, yard, or neighborhood.



**\$** Increased maintenance costs to respond to wipe clogs and tangles in our pipes and pumps.



**\$** Costly equipment upgrades to screen wipes out of the wastewater at our pump stations and treatment plant.



A 2019 study by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies estimates that wipes result in about \$441 million a year in additional operating costs at US clean water utilities, including more than \$47 million in California alone. And this doesn’t even include capital costs to install additional expensive equipment.





**\$** Ongoing disposal fees to bundle and haul all the wipes we remove to the landfill.



**\$** Even as we remove wipes from our sewer system and treatment plant, they can shed small microfibers and microplastics into the water. These particles can end up in Suisun Bay and our oceans, creating ecological costs for generations to come.

*Please help us protect our pipes and the environment by disposing of wipes where they belong: **in the trash.***

## NEIGHBORHOOD UPGRADES: CURRENT PROJECTS

**W**e have a number of projects underway to replace aging neighborhood sewer pipes and improve the reliability of our system (estimated completion dates in parentheses).

**DANVILLE, PHASE 3** will replace approximately 1.0 miles of sewers in the Camino Tassajara/Gil Blass neighborhood. (January 2021)

**LAFAYETTE, PHASE 14** will replace approximately 2.0 miles of sewers in Lafayette primarily south of Interstate 24 as well as various locations in Moraga. (February 2021)

**MARTINEZ, PHASE 6** will replace approximately 1.5 miles of sewers primarily in the Forest Hills Estates neighborhood, along Center Avenue, and various other locations in Martinez. (March 2021)

**PUMP STATION UPGRADES PROJECT, PHASE 1** will renovate or replace major mechanical, electrical, and controls equipment at three pump stations in Orinda and Moraga. (December 2021)

**WALNUT CREEK, PHASE 14** will replace approximately 1.6 miles of sewers primarily in the Sterlings Ridge, Meadow Creek, and Larkey Park neighborhoods of Walnut Creek. (February 2021)

To learn more about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200 or [ccarp@centralsan.org](mailto:ccarp@centralsan.org), or visit: [centralsan.org/construction](https://centralsan.org/construction)





# LOOKING FOR COVID CLUES IN OUR WASTEWATER

For decades, researchers around the world have been successfully using wastewater as an early warning system to detect polio and other diseases.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO VIRUSES IN OUR WASTEWATER?

Some viruses aren't able to survive the journey through the collection system to our treatment plant. For those that do, Central San uses ultraviolet (UV) light to disinfect the water we clean. UV rays break down the genetic material of viruses (such as coronaviruses) and other pathogens that may be in the water, disrupting their ability to reproduce and survive. The cleaned water can then be safely returned to the environment.



As strange as it may seem, the water we send down the drain is a valuable source of scientific information. Across the country, researchers and public health officials are looking to wastewater as a means to track and combat SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Wastewater is a rich source of information about the health of the population it comes from. Through wastewater sampling, scientists can identify early warning signs of infection within a population, track trends, and monitor hot spots. There is a lot of research yet to be done. Still, wastewater monitoring offers a promising tool to help our communities respond more effectively to COVID-19.

## Wastewater Sampling and Computer Modeling

Central San is actively engaged in research to support these monitoring efforts in the fight against COVID-19. As part of a Stanford University study, we are collecting samples from different parts of our treatment processes to look for SARS-CoV-2 RNA, the genetic material of the virus.

This study is helping scientists better understand how the concentration of the virus



*Left: As part of a Stanford University study, Central San plant operators and chemists have been collecting samples from different parts of our treatment processes to look for the genetic material of the new coronavirus.*

*Continued on next page*



*Continued from previous page*

RNA varies throughout a treatment plant.

We're also turning to our state-of-the-art computer model and mapping tools to identify strategic sampling locations throughout our 145-square-mile service area. Sampling "upstream" from our treatment plant at maintenance holes within our collection system could be useful to track concentrations of the virus in different parts of our community. The challenge? Our system is a complex network of underground pipes spread across multiple cities and towns, and with over 36,000 maintenance holes. Where do we start and what information would be helpful for our county health officials? Our computer models are helping to provide answers.

### Looking to the Future

Central San also is collaborating with other researchers, wastewater agencies, and public health agencies across the Bay Area as part of a COVID-19 wastewater working group led by UC Berkeley. Together, we're exploring ways to build monitoring programs based on sound science that would provide reliable and useful information for decision-makers. To further support these efforts, UC Berkeley is working hard to launch a laboratory service in the coming months specifically aimed at analyzing wastewater for SARS-CoV-2. Keep an eye out for updates on these exciting research efforts in future issues of *Pipeline*.



## MAINTAINING OUR 62-YEAR-OLD OUTFALL PIPE TO SUISUN BAY

Every year Central San cleans more than 13 billion gallons of wastewater before safely returning the water to the environment. Most of this water (apart from a portion we recycle) leaves our treatment plant via a 6-foot-diameter, reinforced concrete pipe. Called the *outfall*, this pipe carries cleaned, treated water from our treatment plant in Martinez more than 3.5 miles to Suisun Bay. This fall, we completed a series of inspections and improvements to ensure this critical piece of infrastructure remains in good working condition.

Constructed in 1958, our outfall runs primarily underground, past delicate wetland habitat, and finally underwater into the bay where the cleaned water is discharged. As part of this project, we surveyed the pipe to ensure it hasn't shifted due to seismic activity or settling of the surrounding bay mud. We also tested approximately 1,500 joints that connect the pipe segments and repaired any leaky seals. Finally, we completed several other improvements, including installing corrosion control systems at access holes along the pipe, replacing aging valves, and repairing the wooden maintenance trestles that straddle the pipe in Suisun Bay.

One of the biggest challenges was dewatering the pipe so we could get inside and inspect it. We set up multiple dewatering points along the pipe, then pumped water from low spots through the pipe to these locations. During the project, treated water from our plant was diverted into our holding basins, then into Lower Walnut Creek and out to Suisun Bay.

After a thorough inspection, we're pleased to report that the outfall is continuing to perform well with more than six decades of service under its belt. Taking good care of all our pipes and facilities ensures that we're getting the maximum use out of them—and the maximum value for your rate dollars.



Regular inspections of our outfall pipe are a requirement of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which ensures that the water we release to Suisun Bay meets the highest environmental standards. Read more about how we've achieved 22 years of 100% permit compliance on page 3.



## HAVE A **HAPPY, CLOG-FREE HOLIDAY**

**DID YOU KNOW:** The cooking oil you bring to Central San's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is recycled to produce biofuel.

'**T**is the season for delicious home cooking—and potentially for nasty sewer clogs and backups! This time of year, people tend to prepare elaborate meals, deep fry turkeys, and invite family and friends into their homes and kitchens. As a result, the amount of fats, oils, and grease going down kitchen sinks increases dramatically.

Fats, oils, and grease are a major cause of sewer clogs and overflows. When they go down the drain, they cling to the inside of pipes and build up over time. Eventually pipes can become completely clogged, causing sewage to back up in your home, yard, or street. Fortunately, a few simple steps can help prevent such a mess from ruining your holidays:

- ▶ **Keep all fats, oils, grease, and fatty foods out of the sink drain and garbage disposal.** Have guests helping out in the kitchen? Make sure they know how to safely dispose of grease, too.
- ◀ Before washing the dishes, **scrape food scraps into the trash or compost**, and wipe greasy pots, pans, and dishes with a paper towel.
- ▶ Deep frying your turkey this year? You can **recycle your used cooking oil or grease by bringing it to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.** See next page for hours and directions.
- ▶ Very small quantities of cooking oil or grease can be **poured into a disposable container** such as a milk carton or lidded coffee can. Freeze it to solidify or mix with absorbent material (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter), then put it in the trash.



## IF WE BUILD IT, **WILL YOU COME?**



**W**e need your input! We are considering building a recreational vehicle (RV) wastewater disposal station at our treatment plant in Martinez. This facility would provide a low- or no-cost way to empty your RV tanks and safely dispose of the wastewater.



Is this something you and your family would use?  
Let us know by visiting: [centralsan.org/rv](http://centralsan.org/rv)





## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY: **YES, WE'RE OPEN!**

If you've been using your shelter-at-home time to tackle home projects, we may be able to help! No, we don't have any Instagram-worthy tips for decluttering or redecorating. But, if your quarantine cleaning has unearthed old paint, dead batteries, used motor oil, and other unwanted home, garden, or automotive products, we've got you covered. Every year we collect about 2.2 million pounds of household hazardous waste, and we reuse or recycle about 90% of these materials.

For residents, there's no charge and no appointment needed to drop off your waste. However, we have made a few changes to help protect the health and safety of our customers and employees. Here are some tips to ensure a smooth and safe visit:

- ▶ We can accept up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per visit, in containers no larger than five gallons.
- ▶ Before visiting the facility, place your waste in the trunk or hatchback of your vehicle or the bed of your truck. (Sorry, but we cannot collect waste that is in the front or back seat.)
- ▶ Our helpful staff will retrieve the waste from your vehicle. Please remain in your vehicle unless they ask you to exit the vehicle to open or close the trunk or tailgate.
- ▶ Under current health orders, face coverings and social distancing are required at all times while visiting the drop-off facility, including while you are in your vehicle.
- ▶ As a result of enhanced safety protocols, you may occasionally experience longer lines and waiting times. We appreciate your patience!

To ensure everyone's safety, we may make further changes to our drop-off hours and procedures, if conditions warrant. Before visiting, please check our website or call our hotline for the latest updates: [centralsan.org/hhw](https://centralsan.org/hhw) or (800) 646-1431

### **DON'T FLUSH YOUR DRUGS:**

Help us protect the health of our local waterways and aquatic life by keeping pharmaceuticals out of drains and sewers. Dispose of expired and unwanted medications safely by bringing them to one of our free drop-off sites. To find a location near you, visit: [centralsan.org/pharmaceuticals](https://centralsan.org/pharmaceuticals)

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY

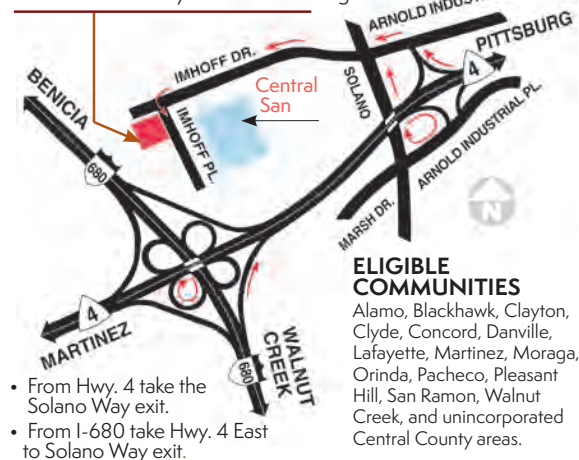
4797 Imhoff Place,  
Martinez, CA 94553  
1-800-646-1431

**RESIDENTS:**  
Monday–Saturday,  
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
(Reuse Room closed  
indefinitely)

**BUSINESSES:**  
Monday–Saturday,  
by appointment

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**  
Nov. 26-27;  
Dec. 24-Jan. 1,  
Jan. 18; Feb. 12;  
Feb. 15

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility  
& Residential Recycled Water Filling Station



### **ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES**

Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and unincorporated Central County areas.

- From Hwy. 4 take the Solano Way exit.
- From I-680 take Hwy. 4 East to Solano Way exit.



## DESIGNING DISTANCE LEARNING THAT'S ALSO HANDS-ON

**TO SEE A SNEAK PEEK** of this lesson (and to get a free copy of the workbook mailed directly to you) check out our kids' activity on page 15.

**TO EXPLORE OUR DISTANCE LEARNING OPTIONS** for this school year, and to schedule a lesson for your child's classroom, go to: [centralsan.org/distance-learning](https://centralsan.org/distance-learning) Questions? Contact Ben Lavender at [blavender@centralsan.org](mailto:blavender@centralsan.org) or (925) 768-2857.

*"It reminds me of clouds."  
"It makes me think of cotton candy!" "I think it looks like a bunch of bird feathers!"*

These are the sounds coming from the computer screen during one of our virtual classroom lessons. Students are engrossed by two recycled food jars sitting in front of them. Each jar is partially filled with water. In one is a piece of toilet paper, and in the other a piece of "non-toilet paper" (such as a paper towel or napkin). The students have just shaken their jars to simulate the action of flushing.

When schools closed this past spring, we realized how important it was to continue and adapt our education programs, despite the challenges. Many people were relying on wipes to disinfect surfaces and resorting to toilet paper substitutes

due to empty store shelves. These changes reinforced our commitment here at Central San to helping customers of all ages think more seriously about the question: "What happens to our dirty water after it goes down the drain?"

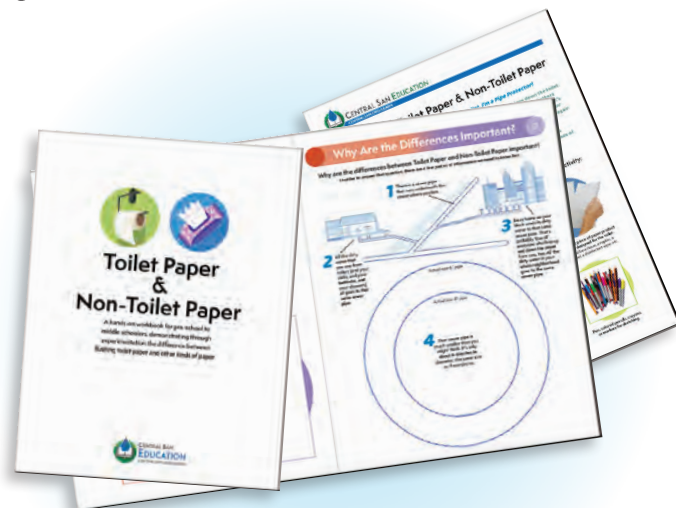
In designing virtual classroom programs like our Toilet and Non-Toilet Paper lesson, we wanted to provide hands-on, interactive learning, not just screen time.



This lesson uses common household supplies to ensure that everyone can participate. We use scientific sketching as a tool to draw our attention to details about our flushed paper we might otherwise miss. We actively share our ideas across computer screens. We take full advantage of the opportunity to actually see what our toilet paper (and other kinds of paper) looks like after we flush it.

As the students hold their jars side-by-side, they contemplate what might happen as these different kinds of paper move through our system. We encourage them to consider questions such as: How big are our pipes underground? How far do the things we flush need to travel before they reach our treatment plant? And why might the differences between these two kinds of paper matter to our system? You can see, slowly at first, that it is dawning on the entire class that the stuff we put in our water (and down our drains) does not disappear.

With this new firsthand knowledge, they'll be ready to make wise choices about what to put down the drain—and what not to.



### WONDERING WHERE ALL THAT TOILET PAPER'S GOING?

How our dirty water becomes clean again? Simple ways each of us can help prevent water pollution? Our wastewater experts will answer these questions and much more.

## NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR VIRTUAL EVENT?

If your group is looking for a guest speaker for your online meeting or event, we may be able to help! Our virtual speaker presentations are your go-to resource for all things Central San. Learn all about your friendly local sewer service provider, from our earliest beginnings to our latest construction projects in your town.

If your group has specific interests related to our work, we're happy to tailor the presentation to your needs. To request a speaker, just call our Public Info Line at (925) 335-7702 and leave a message with your contact information and details about your event.



## GET A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK ... VIRTUALLY!

Although our in-person tours and events are currently suspended, that hasn't stopped us from finding creative new ways to share the essential work we do. One innovative solution is the development of our Virtual Treatment Plant Tour featuring interactive 360-degree photos and an audio tour of each stage of the treatment process. The online tour provides an immersive, behind-the-scenes view of our plant from the comfort and safety of your home computer or mobile device.

The tour launched in mid-April, and since then we have hosted numerous guided virtual tours and Q & A sessions with customers, community groups, schools, and partners at other agencies. We invite you to "visit" us virtually and discover how we're using engineering and science to make dirty water clean again.



There are three ways to enjoy the virtual tour:

1. Explore the tour on your own schedule by visiting: [centralsan.org/virtual-plant-tour](https://centralsan.org/virtual-plant-tour)
2. Join other members of the community for a guided virtual tour and interactive Q&A event. Go to [centralsan.org/virtual-plant-tour](https://centralsan.org/virtual-plant-tour) to register for our next session, coming up January 20, 2021.
3. Schedule a virtual tour/Q&A event for your organization, group, or class. Contact Ben Lavender at [blavender@centralsan.org](mailto:blavender@centralsan.org) or (925) 768-2857 to learn more.

Located in Martinez, Central San's treatment plant cleans an average of 35 million gallons of wastewater every day. It's staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**CONNECT WITH US!** Follow Central San for pollution prevention tips, news, and much more.  
**Twitter:** @CentralSan  
**Instagram:** @CentralSanDist  
**Facebook:** @CentralSanDist  
**YouTube:** @CentralSanDist

## HOW TO REPORT OVERFLOWS, ODORS, AND TROUBLESOME MAINTENANCE HOLES

Central San maintains more than 1,500 miles of pipeline across our 145-square-mile service area. We work hard to keep our sewer system in tip-top shape, but we need your help! Although we think of our employees as superstars, they cannot be everywhere at once. We also depend upon our customers' eyes, ears, and noses to alert us to problems that need to be fixed. Please let us know if you observe any of these issues:

**OVERFLOWS:** Central San has one of the best reliability records in California. But no matter what we do, we can never totally eliminate the possibility of an overflow. If you see, smell, or suspect a sewage overflow or spill, please call us immediately at (925) 933-0990. We will dispatch a crew to investigate and take appropriate action as quickly as possible.

**ODORS:** We do our best to control odors throughout the treatment process, but, yes, wastewater does have odors. You can report bothersome odors from our treatment plant or sewer system to our Odor Hotline at (925) 335-7703.

**TROUBLESOME MAINTENANCE HOLES:** Occasionally, the covers on our maintenance holes (or "manholes") can create tripping hazards, noise, or other problems. Over time, with years of cars traveling over them, they might sit unevenly or rattle loudly when vehicles pass over. If you notice a maintenance hole cover in need of repair or adjustment, call us at (925) 933-0990.



**LET US KNOW IF YOU SEE AN OVERFLOW!** Here's an example of what to watch for. (Photo taken at Central San's overflow simulator training facility.)



**REMOVE AND PLACE STICKERS IN YOUR REGULAR TRASH BIN.**

Stickers that go down the drain can get stuck in our equipment, or worse, end up in Suisun Bay.

**KEEP STICKERS OUT OF YOUR GREEN BINS AND COMPOST AS WELL.**

Even so-called “compostable” stickers can take a long time to break down.

# FRUIT & VEGGIE STICKER ART GALLERY

**T**hank you to all our young (and young-at-heart) customers who sent us their super creative produce sticker art! In our spring *Pipeline*, we asked readers to help keep these pesky bits of plastic from going down the drain by upcycling them into art instead. We received so many great submissions, it was tough to pick just a handful to publish. We appreciate everyone who participated for sharing their creativity and for helping to protect our pipes and environment.



*Ellie L., Lafayette*



*Debbie G., Lafayette*



*Ibrahim H., Walnut Creek*



*Addison H., Walnut Creek*



*Vivienne E., Concord*



*Lily S., Walnut Creek*



*Leander & Marlena S., Walnut Creek*





WHAT HAPPENS TO TOILET PAPER IN WATER?

## TRY THIS TEST

**Hi Kids! I'm Toot the Toilet. I'm a Pipe Protector!**

Have you ever wondered what happens to toilet paper after we flush it? Here's an activity you can do using items that you find around your home.



Take a clean, lidded glass jar (recycled food jars work great) and fill it about half way with water. Take a piece of toilet paper and put it in the jar.



Close the lid tightly. Tilt the jar slowly with your hand underneath just to make sure that no water can spill out.



Put both hands on the jar and give it a little shake. This is like what happens when we flush the toilet, so you might make a flushing sound while you do it.



Put the jar down in front of you and look closely at what happened to your toilet paper. If you like, you can draw a picture or write about what you see.



After you do this activity with toilet paper, you might want to try it with other types of paper, too. To learn more, check out our digital workbook by going to: [centralsan.org/distance-learning](https://centralsan.org/distance-learning)

◀ We can also mail a free copy directly to you! Just send an email requesting a workbook to [blavender@centralsan.org](mailto:blavender@centralsan.org) or call 925-768-2857.



## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

General Information	(925) 228-9500 or <a href="http://CentralSan.org">CentralSan.org</a>
Sewer Overflows	(925) 933-0990
Recycled Water Fill Station InfoLine	(925) 335-7717
Treatment Plant InfoLine (Report Odors)	(925) 335-7703
Household Hazardous Waste InfoLine	(800) 646-1431 or <a href="http://CentralSan.org/HHW">CentralSan.org/HHW</a>
Sewer connection permits/Permit Counter	(925) 229-7371
To report illegal discharges into sewer system	(925) 229-7288 (during business hours); (925) 229-7214 (after hours)
Environmental Compliance	(925) 229-7288
Employment Opportunities	<a href="http://CentralSan.org/Careers">CentralSan.org/Careers</a>
Student Education Programs	(925) 335-7723 or <a href="http://CentralSan.org/Learn">CentralSan.org/Learn</a>
Community Information Line	(925) 335-7702

Board meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Central San Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez. Meetings can be live-streamed at [centralsan.org](http://centralsan.org)



**Central San serves nearly half a million customers within its 145-square-mile service area.**

- Wastewater collection & treatment; Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal.
- Wastewater treatment & HHW disposal in Concord & Clayton by contract.
- HHW disposal only.
- Central San headquarters, treatment plant, HHW Facility & Residential Recycled Water Fill Station.

### The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District **Pipeline**

Written and designed by Central San staff to communicate pollution prevention messages to the people and communities we serve.

**Ann Vallée**, Editor, Writer  
**Charles Waltmire**, Graphic Designer

View archived issues at [CentralSan.org](http://CentralSan.org)



PIPELINE is printed with soy-based inks on Recycled Paper  
Please share or recycle this newsletter.