



# The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District PIPELINE

Volume 12, Number 2

A newsletter about protecting public health and the environment

Summer 2008

## Modest Increase in Sewer Rates Effective July 1, 2008

### Residents to Pay About 92¢ More Per Month

At a public hearing on June 5, 2008, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board of Directors approved a \$102 million budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 that includes a modest increase to the Sewer Service Charge.

It is a continual challenge for the District to balance costs and keep rates reasonable while effectively protecting public health and the environment. That the challenge has been met is reflected in a number of ways: a national award recognizing our treatment plant's ten years of total compliance with State and Federal water quality permits; a "Best in California" award for our collection system; a dramatic decrease in sewer overflows; and increased savings in energy usage.

The Board determined a rate increase is necessary to cover the rising costs associated with labor, material, fuel, energy, and regulatory compliance.

The new annual Sewer Service Charge for residential customers for FY 08-09 will be \$311, an increase of \$11 per year (about 92¢ per month), effective July 1, 2008. The District also currently receives a portion of local property taxes (known as "Ad Valorem" tax), equating to about \$74 per household each year.

The new Sewer Service Charge rate business customers will pay depends on the composition and amount of sewage they produce, and can be estimated by multiplying their

2007-2008 bill by 3.7% for FY 08-09.

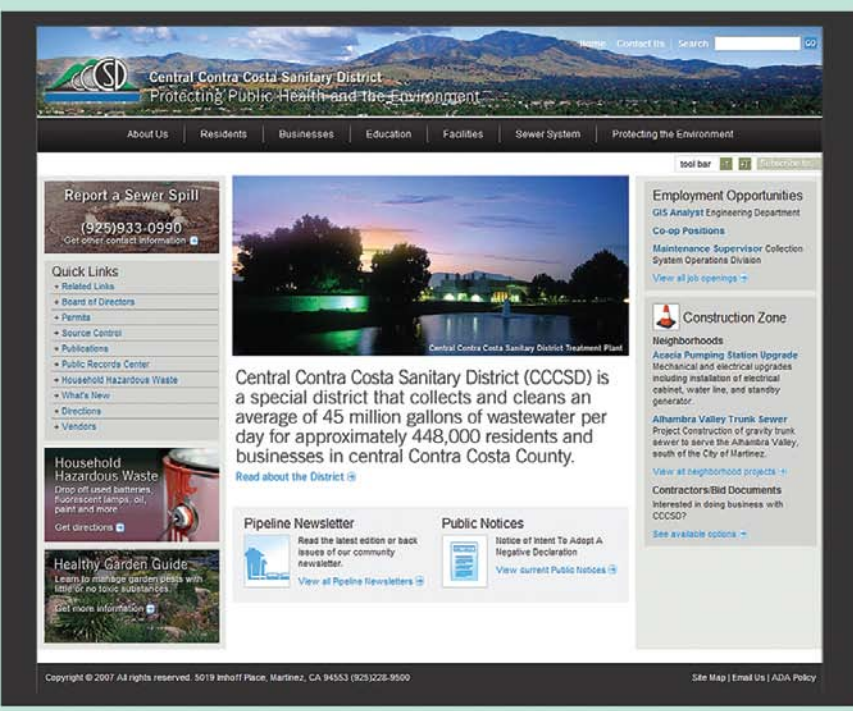
The Sewer Service Charge is collected on the County property tax bill as

*(see Sewer Rate..., page 2)*

## Coming Soon: New & Improved Web Site

Our web site, [www.centalsan.org](http://www.centalsan.org), has been online since 1997. It's always been full of useful content, but its outdated design made it difficult for people to find some of that content. So we've been working on improvements for the past several months. These improvements include a new look, easier navigation, and a faster search function. Additional improvements are planned for future updates.

We expect to launch the new site soon.



## “What’s That?”

To ensure a constant, efficient flow of wastewater throughout our 1,500-mile collection system, our crews use special equipment and vehicles to clean and repair our sewer lines. They clean an average of about 420 miles of pipeline each year. You may have seen our trucks in your area and wondered what they were doing and why.

Here are the two you’re most likely to see:



This large truck is known as a Hydro-Vac. It uses a high-pressure water spray and a variety of nozzles to clean grease and other built-up materials from the inside of sewer pipes—and a vacuum to remove the debris.



This is a power-rodding truck. It can push a flexible steel cable into pipes, with different cleaning attachments (auger, cutter blades, scrapers) on the end to cut through roots and other blockages. The majority of plugged sewers in our area are caused by roots getting into the pipes.

## Sewer Rates... (continued from front)

a line item labeled “CCCSD SEWER CHG.” It is CCCSD’s primary source of revenue and covers the costs of collecting, treating and disposing wastewater from more than 450,000 residents and businesses in Central Contra Costa County; operating the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in Martinez; and providing recycled water services. These operating costs are expected to be approximately \$58.5 million in FY 08-09.

Most of the revenue from the Sewer Service Charge is applied to the operations and maintenance

costs of running the District. These costs include labor, benefits, utilities and chemicals, hauling and disposal, materials and supplies, and routine repairs and maintenance. A portion of the Sewer Service Charge also goes to repair, rehabilitate, and construct our sewer pipelines, pumping stations, and treatment plant facilities. These costs are expected to be approximately \$39 million in FY 08-09.

The Sewer Service Charge is not the only source of revenue for the District. Other revenue sources include new sewer connection fees, contract charges, and Ad Valorem tax, as previously mentioned.

The District’s budgeted Ad Valorem tax revenue for FY 08-09 is approximately \$12.4 million, and will be used for debt payment and refurbishment of District infrastructure. Were the State to reduce our Ad Valorem tax revenue (as has been proposed by the Legislative Analyst’s Office), the District’s Board of Directors would have to consider increasing the Sewer Service Charge significantly to replace those funds.

We appreciate your understanding of this modest rate increase that will enable us to continue fulfilling our vital mission of protecting public health and the environment.

If you have questions about your Sewer Service Charge rate, please contact us via email at [rates@centralsan.dst.ca.us](mailto:rates@centralsan.dst.ca.us) or call (925) 335-7739.

## Capital Program Ensures Community Needs are Met, Now and in the Future

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board of Directors approved the District’s Fiscal Year 2008-09 Capital Improvement Budget and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan at a public hearing on May 15, 2008.

Our Capital Program preserves, maintains and enhances the District’s assets, accommodates community needs, and protects the environment.

The District’s FY 08-09 Capital Improvement Budget details expenditures of approximately \$39 million for the planning, design, and construction of capital projects. Capital projects are major construction, acquisition, or renovation activities which add value to the District’s fixed assets (pipelines, facilities, equipment) or significantly increase their useful life.

The Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan projects needed expenditures for ten years into the future. It focuses on renovation, expansion, and regulatory requirements

expected to occur or be needed based on analyses of existing conditions, government indicators, and operational history. Estimated expenditures for the next ten years are \$340 million (in 2008 dollars), an average of \$34 million per year.

The Capital Improvement Budget and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan also include projected revenues and cash-flow analyses to demonstrate how planned expenditures will be funded.

Each planned project addresses one or more of these District goals:

- Protect public health and the environment
- Maintain existing assets
- Respond to regulatory and community concerns
- Accommodate planned growth

A summary describing the major capital projects for FY 08-09, the major projects included in the Ten-Year

Capital Improvement Plan, and the revenue streams that support the planned expenditures is available at our website, [www.centralsan.org](http://www.centralsan.org), or by calling our Capital Projects Division Manager, Tad Pilecki, at (925) 229-7273.



## Reminder: When Checking for Fever, Go Digital

A mercury thermometer (silver bulb at the bottom) contains enough mercury to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water, and these thermometers are particularly vulnerable to breakage. If mercury goes down the drain, it contaminates the wastewater that eventually flows to the Bay because the treatment process cannot remove all traces of mercury. This is why the sale of mercury fever thermometers is banned in California.

Instead of disposing of mercury thermometers in the trash, please bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.



We'll even give you a free digital fever thermometer in exchange for your mercury thermometer! ❖

For more information, please call 1-800-646-1431.

## Local Stores Providing Drop-Off Locations

Retail stores in many cities in central Contra Costa County are helping to prevent pollution by collecting batteries and pharmaceuticals for proper disposal. When you're unable to visit our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, please consider one of these alternatives:



### Household batteries:

- Bill's Ace Hardware Stores (Martinez, Concord, Pleasant Hill)
- Walnut Creek Ace Hardware
- Longs Drugs (most stores in central county area)
- Rite Aid (Orinda and Walnut Creek)
- Radio Shack (Danville and Walnut Creek)
- Ace Hardware (Lafayette and Moraga)
- Walgreens (Danville)
- Many city offices
- All large retail chain stores that sell rechargeable batteries are required to take them back (Wal-Mart, Target, Radio Shack, etc.)

**Note:** This is not an all-inclusive list. Please check with the retailers in your community.



### Medications:

Currently, Elephant Pharm (1288 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek) is taking back medications except for controlled substances. Check to see if your pharmacy offers a take-back program. If a pharmaceutical take-back program is not available, please follow these guidelines for disposing of your medications: (1) take them out of their original containers; (2) put them in a sealable container (such as a coffee can or plastic bag); (3) mix in an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter); (4) seal the container; (5) put the container in the trash.

Please do not flush any medications. Do not dispose of syringes or needles with medications.



## Get Free Home Improvement Products

(And Help the Environment at the Same Time)

Would you like free paint, household cleaners, or garden products? Then visit our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility's Reuse Room (4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez).

Our goal is to encourage the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle philosophy. We would rather residents reduce their use of hazardous products by using safer alternatives. But when people bring in household hazardous waste for disposal, we separate the reusable items and put them in our Reuse Room.

Unused or leftover paints, stains, cleaners, garden products, automotive products, pool chemicals, and other reusable items are often available and free for the taking. The items and quantities vary depending on what people bring to the facility, but our shelves are never bare.

The Reuse Room is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 1-800-646-1431 for more information. (Please note we cannot provide inventory information over the phone.)



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Hours and Location

**Residents:** Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Reuse Room closes at 3:30 p.m.)

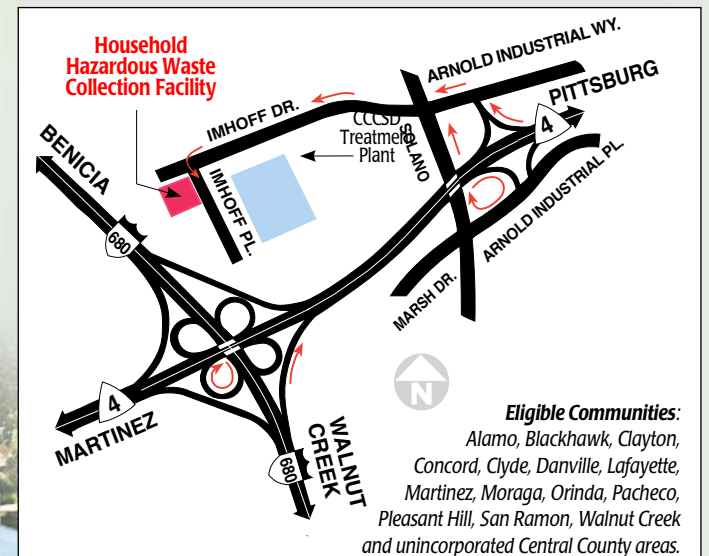
**Businesses:** Tuesday – Saturday, by appointment only

### Holiday Schedule:

**Closed:** November 11, 27, 28, 2008  
December 24, 2008 - January 1, 2009



1-800-646-1431



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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility  
4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392

## A Really Big Boring Project

### The A-Line Relief Interceptor, Phase 2A

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and the City of Concord have begun a joint project to increase the wet-weather capacity of the District's A-Line interceptor and eliminate the need for one of the City of Concord's pumping stations.

The A-Line Interceptor is the "backbone" of the District's collection system. It is an extremely large pipe that receives sewage from a large portion of the District's service area and transports the flows to our treatment plant in Martinez. The new



The huge pit for the boring machine.

relief interceptor will be tied into the existing A-Line allowing high flows during rainy periods to enter the relief interceptor, taking the pressure off of the A-Line.

The project will install almost 5,000 feet of new sewer lines ranging in diameter from 48 to 96-inches, and converting the Concord pumping station (located behind the Waterworld amusement park) into a metering station that will move wastewater to the District's collection system by gravity.

To reduce impacts on residents and businesses in the area, almost 4,000 feet of pipe is being installed using a tunneling technique called pipe jacking. An Earth Pressure Balance Machine, a specifically designed boring machine, carves out an underground route for the 20-foot long, 96-inch tall, 62,000 pound pipe segments that will make up the new sewer.

Twenty-seven feet underground, the boring machine and pipe segments will be pushed by a series of hydraulic jacks through the Buchanan Fields

Golf Course and south across Concord Avenue to the intersection of Meridian Park Boulevard and Galaxy Way. From there, the sewer will turn east and travel to the walking path next to Walnut Creek (the stream – not the city).

The equipment is "driven" by an operator who sits in a small car located inside the head of the boring machine. He stays in this confined area while the boring head turns at a little more than one rotation per minute, moving forward at the maximum rate of five feet an hour.

As 12-inch teeth cut through the earth, the machine injects a lubricating fluid to soften the soil and reduce friction on the equipment. The material loosened by the teeth is pulled by a small corkscrew shaped device into the machine where it is pushed backwards 40 feet and dropped into a cart. From there the cart travels on rails all the way back to the beginning of the tunnel where it is emptied.

The operator drives the machine forward until a complete 20-foot

## Call Before You Dig

If you're planning a project that involves any digging, please call the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District at (925) 229-7371 for information on how to locate your house sewer (lateral) before you begin. Many unfortunate homeowners have found out the hard way that digging without knowing the location of their sewer pipe first can result in damage to the pipe, a sewage spill, and interruption of their sewer service.

In addition to sewer lines, other utility lines such as water, natural gas, electric and telephone are buried underground. To locate these buried lines, call Underground Service Alert (USA) toll-free at (800) 642-2444 at least two full working days before you begin work. USA will notify appropriate utility companies about where you are planning to dig so they can come out (free of charge) to mark the location of their utility lines. This will allow you to dig safely, without risking possible injury, damage to utility lines, or interruptions of service.

**Note:** USA notifications cover public utilities only. Because the private house sewer (lateral) on your property is not part of the public sewer system, it will not be marked when you call USA.

section of sewer line is in place. Once a section is complete, he can walk back to the beginning for a break, while a crane sets another 20-foot segment into place. Then it is time to repeat the process again, and bore another 20 feet.

Once all of the boring work is complete, we will have to dig an open trench to install the remaining 540 feet across Walnut Creek, and finish by connecting the sewer line to the new metering station. We anticipate completing work on this project in February 2009.



Pipe segments are lowered into the pit and used to push the boring machine along its path.

## Infrastructure Improvements

To protect public health and the environment, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District must regularly maintain, repair or replace sewer lines and other elements of our 1,500-mile wastewater collection system. Construction work can be disruptive, and we do our best to minimize the inconvenience our projects may cause to residents and businesses.

Here's a brief summary of major construction projects:

### 1 Concord

**A-Line Relief Interceptor, Phase 2A:** This is a joint project with the City of Concord and will increase capacity and reduce the potential for wet-weather overflows in the A-Line Interceptor. (The interceptor is the backbone of the District's collection system and is a large pipe that receives wastewater from a number of sewers and transports it to the treatment plant.) This project entails installing 3,000 feet of 96-inch pipe from Buchanan Fields Golf



Course to the intersection of Meridian Park Boulevard and Galaxy Way. An additional 1,400 feet of 48-inch through 72-inch pipe will be installed along Galaxy Way, then across Walnut Creek to the City of Concord Pumping Station. The project will actually eliminate the need for the pumping station. To minimize construction impacts, 4,000 feet of pipe will be installed by

tunneling. Construction is underway and expected to finish in February 2009. Estimated construction cost: \$21 million.

### 2 Lafayette

**Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 5:** This ongoing project will replace or renovate deteriorating or deficient sewers in Lafayette. Phase 5 will renovate approximately 11,000 feet of sewers

at 23 sites using open-cut and various trenchless technologies. Construction of this phase is underway and expected to finish by February 2009. Estimated construction cost: \$1.8 million.

### 3 Martinez

**Martinez Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 2:** This ongoing project will replace or renovate deteriorating or deficient sewers in Martinez. Phase 2 will renovate approximately 7,000 feet of sewers using open-cut and various trenchless technologies. Construction of this phase is underway and expected to finish by January 2009. Estimated construction cost: \$1.9 million.

### 4 Orinda

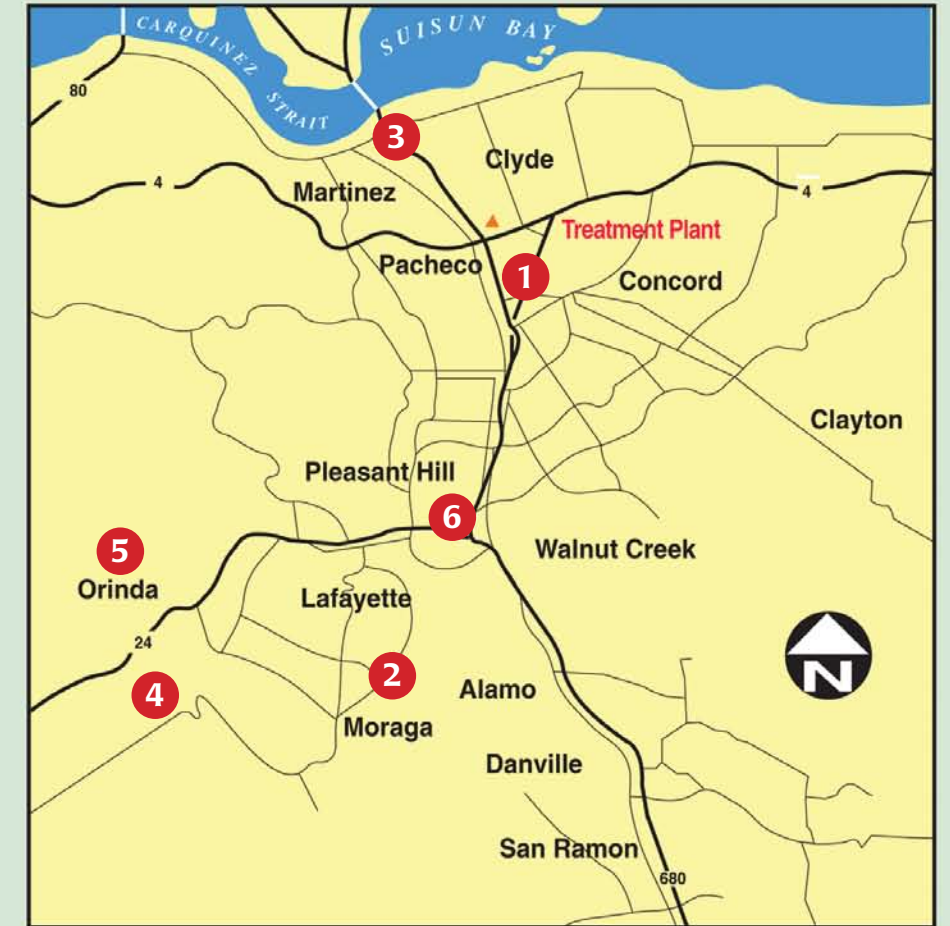
**South Orinda Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 3:** This ongoing project will renovate deteriorating sewers in South Orinda. Phase 3 will renovate about 7,500 feet of sewers at 15 sites south of Highway 24 using trenchless technologies. Construction is expected to start in July 2008 and finish by February 2009. Estimated construction cost: \$1.4 million.

### 5 Camino Pablo Trunk Sewer and Force Main Improvements

This project will replace gravity sewers and two pumping station force mains within Camino Pablo and the Camino Pablo frontage road, from the Flush Kleen pumping station north of Miner Road to El Toynal, using open-cut and pipe-bursting methods. Construction and traffic control details will be closely coordinated with the City of Orinda. Construction is expected to begin in July and be finished by December 2008. Estimated construction cost: \$2.2 million.

### 6 Walnut Creek

**Walnut Creek Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 6:** This ongoing project (which may



include up to 15 phases) will replace or renovate deteriorating or deficient sewers in Walnut Creek. Phase 6 will renovate approximately 10,000 feet of deficient sewers at 10 sites using open-cut and various trenchless technologies. Construction of this phase is underway and expected to

finish by November 2008. Estimated construction cost: \$1.8 million.

For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200.

## Your Sewer System is the Best in California

The California Water Environment Association has presented the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District with its 2007 California Large Collection System of the Year Award. The District's collection system is comprised of almost 1,500 miles of sewer pipe and 18 pumping stations that transport wastewater from 448,750 residents and businesses in central county to the treatment plant in Martinez. Maintaining it all is an ongoing challenge for our crews. We're proud of the quality of their work, and honored to receive this recognition from our industry peers.



## Coming Soon: Recycled Water Hydrant for Filling Water Trucks

In light of the drought situation, we are pleased to offer recycled water to contractors for dust control, compaction, and other activities suitable for non-potable water. Please contact CCCSD at 925-229-7371 for more information.



## We Want Your Hazardous Waste

Do you know the best way to dispose of hazardous materials used in your business?

When materials containing potentially dangerous chemicals are discarded, they become hazardous waste.

Examples of hazardous waste include paints, batteries, motor oil, pesticides, solvents, acids and fluorescent tubes. If disposed of improperly, these materials can threaten human health and the environment.

The proper disposal of hazardous waste can be complicated, time-consuming and expensive for businesses. As a result, many businesses are simply storing their hazardous waste on site, hoping to find a cost-effective way to get rid of it.

We may have a better solution! If your business is located and does business in our service area (see map on back page), and generates less than 220 pounds or 27 gallons of hazardous waste per month per location, it may qualify for our Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator-Hazardous Waste Program. This program makes it easy, safe and economical for businesses to dispose of hazardous wastes at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Additional restrictions may apply and disposal fees are charged based on the type and quantity of materials you drop off.

For more information, please call 1-800-646-1431, e-mail us at CESQG@centralsan.dst.ca.us, or visit our web site: [www.centralsan.org](http://www.centralsan.org)

## Pollution Solutions Champion: Bill Wygal

**“Because it’s the right thing to do.”**

That’s how Bill Wygal, owner of Bill’s Ace Hardware, explains the ongoing pollution prevention activities in all four of his stores.

The family business, founded by Bill’s grandparents, has been a Martinez fixture for decades, marking its 60th anniversary on May 8 of this year. But it was just over 10 years ago that Bill’s commitment to pollution prevention began to take off. “I got involved with the Our Water, Our World program through Central San,” Bill remarked. “That was around the time that the whole IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program for healthy gardens started. It was simple enough to display information from Central San on using non-toxic pesticides and simple pest management hints in our gardening supply sections.”

That simple effort to keep his customers informed about pollution prevention resulted in Bill’s Ace Hardware stores being named one of the first Green Businesses in Contra Costa County. And that was just the start.

To help keep mercury out of the environment, each of Bill’s four stores collects used batteries from customers. Bill brings an average of six 5-gallon buckets of used batteries to CCCSD’s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility each month.

Today, all four of Bill’s stores feature signage that refers customers to the HHW Collection Facility for disposal of household hazardous waste. There are shelf signs in each store, advising customers to bring unused paint, pesticides and fertilizers, CFLs and fluorescent lamps, used cleaning and auto products to the HHW facility. And



Bill Wygal

each store has an information rack with fact sheets on the IPM program, healthy gardening, and HHW disposal guides.

In January, Bill appointed a Recycling Manager for each store and began to recycle all paper, not just 8 1/2 X 11 inch sheets. Collectively, the stores increased paper recycling fourfold, from 500 pounds to 2,000 pounds a month. He convinced manufacturers to take back defective aerosol cans rather than just tossing them into the trash as was the standard practice. Later this year, he expects to have photo voltaic displays in all four stores for customers interested in home system solar power.

“It can be a real pain at times,” Bill said. “At times it seems that we’re polluting faster than we can remove the pollutants. But we’re doing 1,000 percent better on recycling and the Bay is much cleaner than it was 10 years ago.”

“Like I said, I just want to do the right thing.”

Bill Wygal was formally recognized by the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board of Directors at the May 15 Board meeting as an Environmental Champion for all his efforts.

## To Local Dentists: Thank You for Reducing Mercury Pollution!

Dental practices that use, repair or remove mercury-containing amalgam tooth-filling materials have long been a significant source of mercury in the wastewater that flows to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District treatment plant in Martinez. In 2004, more than 50 percent of the dental mercury entering our sewers was estimated to be from filling placements and removals.

In 2005, the District started promoting the use of Best Management Practices to control mercury discharges from dental practices. In 2007, the District began

requiring all amalgam-generating dental practices in our service area to install amalgam separators (equipment that prevents mercury from going down the drain and mixing with the rest of the dental office’s wastewater that enters the sewer).

Nearly 100 percent of local dentists have now installed the new equipment, and we’ve achieved a dramatic reduction of mercury in wastewater received at our treatment plant as a result: more than 50 percent!

We commend and thank the dentists who have taken this important step to help protect our water environment!

## Is your Business “Green”? Apply for a Pollution Prevention Award!

Every year Central Contra Costa Sanitary District publicly recognizes local businesses that are taking proactive steps to prevent pollution and protect the environment. These steps include:

- Changing products or procedures to use fewer toxic materials.
- Using new technologies or processes to keep contaminants out of the sewer or storm drains.
- Educating employees or the public about ways to prevent water pollution.

If your business is using such pollution prevention strategies within our service area (see map on back page), you can apply for our Pollution Prevention Award. There is no entry fee.

If your business is selected for a Pollution Prevention Award, it will be publicized in local newspapers

(including the Contra Costa Times), on our web site, and in the next issue of this newsletter. You will also receive a framed certificate that lets customers know your business is protecting the environment.

To apply for this award, call (925) 229-7116 to request an application form, or download one from [www.centralsan.org](http://www.centralsan.org). Applications must be received by July 31, 2008.



# About CCCSD

Our mission is to protect public health and the environment. We do this by collecting and treating wastewater, providing recycled water, and promoting pollution prevention.

Our treatment plant in Martinez collects and treats an average of 45 million gallons of wastewater every day. Some highly treated wastewater is recycled for irrigation use on golf courses and parks, and the rest is safely released into Suisun Bay. We also operate a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility that allows our customers to safely dispose of hazardous materials.

## Where to Call...

General information	(925) 228-9500 or <a href="http://www.centernalsan.org">www.centernalsan.org</a>
Sewer overflows <i>(When there's an overflow in the street or a backup in your home, call this number and in most cases, a crew will be there within an hour.)</i>	(925) 933-0955 or 933-0990
Treatment Plant InfoLine (Report Odors)	(925) 335-7703
Household Hazardous Waste InfoLine	(800) 646-1431
Sewer connection permits	(925) 229-7371
To report illegal discharges into sewer system	(925) 229-7288 (during business hours) (925) 229-7214 (after hours)
Job Hotline	(925) 229-7109 or <a href="http://www.centernalsan.org">www.centernalsan.org</a>
Student Education Programs	(925) 229-7310 or <a href="http://www.centernalsan.org">www.centernalsan.org</a>
Public InfoLine	(925) 335-7702 or <a href="http://www.centernalsan.org">www.centernalsan.org</a>

Past issues of the "Pipeline" are available on our web site:  
<http://www.centernalsan.org/education/publications.html>

Board of Directors  
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**Barbara D. Hockett**, President Pro Tem • **James A. Nejedly**, Board Director  
**Michael R. McGill**, Board Director • **Mario M. Menesini**, Board Director

Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the CCCSD Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez.

**James M. Kelly**, General Manager



**CCCSD serves 448,737 people within its 140-square-mile service area.**

- Sewage collection and wastewater treatment (and HHW collection service) for 314,437 people
- Wastewater treatment for 134,300 residents in Concord and Clayton by contract and HHW collection service
- HHW collection service only
- CCCSD's Headquarters, treatment plant, and HHW Collection Facility are located in Martinez
- ▲ CCCSD's Collection System Operations Department (sewer maintenance) is based in Walnut Creek

### The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District PIPELINE

Printed and designed by the CCCSD Communication Services Division using desktop publishing. This newsletter is published periodically to provide useful information to our customers and those in the Mt. View Sanitary District.

**Michael Scahill**, Editor • **Bonnie Lowe**, Writer  
**Son Nguyen**, Graphic Designer



**Protecting Public Health and the Environment**



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