THE CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER

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Properly Disposing of Paint, Batteries, Cleaners & More 20 YEARS



Celebrating Our History, Planning for Our Future

We're Hosting a Week-long Collection Drive to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the HHW!

Learn More on Page 8.

or more than 70 years, Central San has provided safe and reliable wastewater collection and treatment for residents in central Contra Costa County. In 1946, when Central San was formed, the population of Central Contra Costa County was less than 40,000. Today, we serve over 484,200 residents and over 3,000 businesses.

As our region continues to grow and develop, we remain committed to our mission to protect public health and the environment, and provide cost-effective and exceptional service for our customers. Fulfilling this mission requires highly trained staff, diverse expertise, and a commitment to a future that embraces both prudence and innovation.

This was the mindset in 1997, when our Board established the first permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHW) in Contra Costa County. This facility provides our customers with a convenient and environmentally safe place to dispose of household items that can threaten public health and the environment. With more than 36 million pounds collected, we are proud of the role this facility plays in reducing pollution.

Just as we did 20 years ago with the opening of the HHW, Central San continues to strive to meet the needs of our growing community while anticipating emerging regulations and opportunities for increased sustainability. Through projects like our recently adopted Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan, a 20-year vision for replacements and upgrades to our infrastructure, we are taking a long-term planning approach that will allow us to maintain vital services and reliable operations well into the future.

Roger S. Bailey General Manager

The Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan

he Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan was recently accepted by the Central San Board of Directors. This planning document provides a roadmap to address aging infrastructure, emerging regulations, optimize and strive for sustainable operations, and improve the resiliency of Central San's facilities. Included in the Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan is a two-decade-long capital improvement program for the collection system and treatment plant. "The Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan is a tool to help coordinate upcoming decisions and improvements with Central San's long-term needs and vision," said Senior Engineer Dan Frost. By utilizing a master plan approach Central San will be optimally positioned to address our emerging needs in the most effective and fiscally responsible way.

THE COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN IN ACTION: YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK



ENHANCED PERFORMANCE: Headworks Improvements

As part of Central San's infrastructure investment, we recently began installation of new mechanical bar screens at our Headworks Facility. This new facility uses several mechanical processes to remove large debris from incoming wastewater prior to treatment, protecting downstream equipment and processes. The new screens are expected to capture three times more material than their predecessors, effectively reducing the maintenance challenges in the downstream treatment process. Enhancing the performance of the mechanical bar screens will also increase Central San's energy efficiency and limit odors.

APPLIED RESEARCH: Wet Scrubber Pilot and Bioenergy Projects

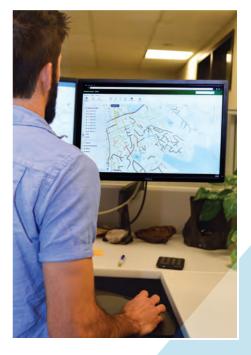
Wet Scrubber Pilot – This pilot project gives Central San the opportunity to test innovative technology and its potential benefits to public health. The wet scrubber pilot is a collection of air pollution control devices that help clean the exhaust air from our incinerator. Central San is piloting a new wet scrubber system that uses a



sophisticated sixstep process to clean the exhaust and will support Central San's effort to meet emerging regulatory requirements. Results from the pilot project will help establish design criteria and operating strategies for a new, fullscale wet scrubber system.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY: Mapping Infrastructure Replacement

The Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan used InfoMaster[®], a state-of-theart software tool, to assist Central San with asset management and longterm planning. InfoMaster[®] uses an array of data and Central San's new mapping software to assess when pipes throughout our 1,500-mile collection system should be replaced. The replacement cost for Central San's entire sewer system is over \$2.5B. This sophisticated system will allow us to plan ahead using a more strategic longterm sewer renovation program.



Bioenergy Projects – Central San is exploring bioenergy technologies that convert the energy embedded in wastewater solids into valuable renewable resources such as biofuels. These bioenergy technologies may offer an innovative way to maximize resource recovery, provide long-term cost savings, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WE LOVE THESE BUSINESSES POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's winners of our annual Pollution Prevention Awards! These local businesses are leaders in pollution prevention and environmental protection!



🧲 Buddha Gate Monastery

hey are conserving water by watering their gardens with rain water collected in rain barrels, saving vegetable wash water from the kitchen to water plants, and installing automatic faucets and low-flow toilets. They also prevent pollutants from entering the sanitary sewer and storm drain systems by making their own environmentally-friendly detergent out of recycled citrus peels and placing strainers over sink drains.

Dr. Michael S. Tobian, DDS 🔶

hey reduce their water consumption by using a dry vacuum system. The facility also uses an amalgam separator and the amalgam is properly disposed of. All their staff are trained in Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Pollution Prevention.





Mrs. Pastures Cookies for Horses

hey purchase their ingredients in bulk to reduce packaging waste, and their dough scraps are remixed or composted. Their facility only has one household-sized garbage can sent to the landfill each week! They also minimize their water use and screen their wastewater for solids before disposal.

The Conco Companies 🔶

hey use recycled water to wash their trucks, and their wash water flows through an innovative pretreatment system and a Sand-Oil Interceptor to remove pollutants before they enter the sanitary sewer. They also installed new sawdust collectors that prevent sawdust from entering the storm drain system and solar panels and LED lights to reduce electrical usage.



Central San conducts the Pollution Prevention Awards program each year in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week. The winners are presented with their awards at Sustainable Contra Costa's annual Leadership in Sustainability Awards Gala.

Awards

Achieving Operational Excellence

TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR



he California Water Environment Association (CWEA), a leader in wastewater education and certification, recently honored Central San with nine CWEA Awards. Central San and our staff were recognized in a broad array of categories, including the overarching achievement of Plant of the Year. The Plant of the Year award recognizes accomplishments in plant performance, compliance, innovative practices, and cost effectiveness.

19 YEARS OF PEAK PERFORMANCE

t Central San, we work hard to ensure that the local waters into which we discharge cleaned wastewater (in our case, Suisun Bay) are protected. We perform more than 15,000 laboratory tests annually to confirm that we meet or surpass all federal, state and regional water quality standards.



As a result, Central San was recently honored by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies with our 19th consecutive Platinum Peak Performance Award. "This award reaffirms, to us and our customers, our commitment to excellence and recognizes the dedication and tenacity of our staff," said Plant Operations Division Manager, Alan Weer.

This prestigious award is bestowed upon wastewater treatment agencies that have achieved 100% compliance with their permits over a consecutive five-year period. We're one of very few agencies in the nation to attain this level of continued success.



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

ou help make these achievements possible. When you properly dispose of household hazardous wastes and pharmaceuticals, and take other actions to keep pollutants out of our wastewater, you are helping us to protect Suisun Bay and the environment. Thank you for your continued support!



Education Continues for Central San Summer Students

tudents from across California joined Central San this summer to gain hands-on experience and learn about the real-life applications of their chosen studies. The Central San Summer Student program offers full-time summer positions for youth interested in administration, engineering, laboratory sciences, facilities and collection system maintenance, computers, and graphic design.

"It's hard work," said Tyler Jarreau-Legarda, who attends community college during the school year, "but it's rewarding and the people are really nice." Tyler spent his summer assisting the Collection System Operations crew and learning to clean sewer pipes using power rodding and hydro jetting. Taylor Gay, a student at Los Medanos College, spent her summer supporting the permit counter. "Before this, I did not realize you needed a permit to build on property. I've learned a lot," said Gay.

Central San also offers a longer, more immersive Co-op Program for college students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program. The Co-op Program is a six-month term and provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic preparation to practical work experience in a wastewater utility.

"I enjoy going out to the project sites and being in the field," reflected Capital Projects Co-op student, Derrick Lewald, a Lafayette resident and Mechanical Engineering student at UC Davis, "it's great to see [something you've worked on] actually get built."

The Co-op program also gives students the opportunity to engage in more specialized learning or explore topics they're passionate about. Marilyn Sun, a chemical engineering student at UC San Diego, came to Central San to work on recycled water projects. "It's such an important resource," she said.

"At Central San, we support STEM education both inside and outside of the classroom. Our Summer Students and Co-ops get to apply their education to real projects and initiatives," said Teji O'Malley, Human Resources Manager. "As a public agency, we also know how important it is to expose our future leaders to opportunities in the public sector." *"I enjoy going out to the project sites and being in the field. It's great to see [something you've worked on] actually get built."*

Capital Projects Co-op student, Derrick Lewald

DIY: GREEN CLEANERS You Can Make at Home

ollution is often portrayed as large oil spills and garbage strewn along beaches, which is why it may surprise you that the major source of water pollution in the Bay Area is residents. Commonly used products like pesticides and cleansers can contain chemicals which, when poured down drains, pass through wastewater treatment plants and end up in local waters, harming fish and wildlife. Treatment plants are designed to treat biological wastes and cannot remove all the metals, solvents, and chemicals contained in many household products. That's why it's so important that residents bring their old cleaners and pesticides to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Thankfully, some of the best non-toxic alternatives can be made from items you may already own!

ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

¹/₂ cup white vinegar ¹/₄ cup baking soda 1/2 gallon (2 liters) water

GLASS CLEANER

2 cups water

1 cup white vinegar

1 teaspoon liquid soap

Combine in a spray bottle for easy application to windows and mirrors.

WOOD POLISH

1 ¹/₂ cup olive oil 1 cup lemon juice Combine in a spray bottle

for easy application.

CARPET CLEANER

¹/₂ cup white vinegar 1/2 cup water 2 tablespoons salt

GREASE REMOVER

Spray or douse the grease with lemon juice or vinegar. Let it sit a few minutes, then scrub.

MINERAL DEPOSIT REMOVER

Mineral deposits around faucets can be softened for easy removal by covering the deposits with vinegar-soaked paper towels. Leave paper towels on for one hour before cleaning.

OVEN CLEANER

Use baking soda and very fine steel wool. Sprinkle water followed by a layer of baking soda. Let stand overnight. Rub



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY **20TH ANNIVERSARY New User Guide**

20 YEARS OF **POLLUTION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP**

wenty years ago, Central San spearheaded the effort to provide a sound solution to keep hazardous waste out of sanitary sewers, storm drains, and solid waste landfills. This solution, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHW), was the first permanent facility of its kind in Contra

Costa County. During its twenty years of operation, our award-winning facility has received – and kept out of the environment – more than 36 million pounds of household hazardous waste! This includes more than 2,600 pounds of mercury, 41,000 car batteries and 1 million gallons of latex paint.

This facility is successful because of you and other Central San customers, who share in our commitment to pollution prevention. In 2016, more than 32,000 customers visited the HHW to properly dispose of their household waste!



CELEBRATE WITH US!

o commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, Central San will be holding a weeklong collection drive from October 16th through October 21st. We're celebrating this milestone with awesome giveaways and a daily raffle featuring prizes from sustainability leaders in our local community.

Bring your household hazardous waste to the HHW from October 16th-October 21st for a chance to win!

Look around your home for household hazardous waste. That light bulb you changed months ago? Those old cleaners your mom "passed down" years ago? The batteries in your antique CD player? We'll take them!

We'll unload it for you! first-time user prize!

Drive away knowing you've helped your community and the environment. By visiting the HHW, you are reducing pollution to our sewers, storm drains, and landfills and protecting our local waters.

the HHW Reuse Room:



NAME: _____ ADDRESS:

A winner will be chosen every day! Prizes provided by local sustainablility leaders.

Using the HHW in 3 Easy Steps:

Place your household hazardous waste in the trunk of your car and visit the HHW at 4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez (near the 680 & HWY 4 interchange).

Bonus: If you visit between October 16th-21st you'll leave with a special

FROM TRASH TO TREASURES

Creative Uses for the Central San Reuse Room

he HHW is a great place to leave things behind, but did you know many of our customers actually visit to pick things up? The HHW also has a Reuse Room, stocked with items brought in for disposal that are still in useable condition. The inventory often includes paint, wood stain, garden products and a wide variety of cleansers—and they're all free to facility users!

Here are some of the amazing creations our customers have made using free products from

From Left: Props for an Italianthemed school fundraiser; painted eggs; a pergola planter stained with free stain from the Reuse Room.

Cut out and bring to the HHW

RAFFLE TICKET

Bring your household hazardous waste and this ticket to the HHW between October 16th-21st for a chance to win!!

PHONE NUMBER:

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

ave you ever wondered what happens to Household Hazardous Waste after you drop it off? 90% of the waste collected at our facility is recycled, recovered as a resource-conserving fuel, or reused.



LATEX PAINT

Is taken to a paint recycling center where unspoiled paint is reclaimed and made into recycled paint. If it is spoiled, the paint is used in a cement mixture to produce concrete blocks for retaining walls and construction barriers.



MOTOR OIL

Is sent to a company that re-refines the oil and uses it as base-stock to make new oil.



CAR BATTERIES

Are taken to a smelter/lead recycler. The acid is neutralized and the lead is smelted for use in making new batteries or other leadcontaining products.



COOKING OIL

Is sent to a company that converts the oil to a biofuel that is used for fueling diesel school buses and fleet vehicles.



FLUORESCENT LAMPS

Are given to a company that sends them through a closed loop system that crushes the lamps and separates the phosphor powder, mercury, glass, and metal ends. These four components are then reclaimed to be reused for lamps or other products.

PERFUME

Is sent to a waste facility where it is blended with other flammable liquid to increase the flammability. It then supplements natural gas or coal to feed the flame of a cement kiln.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392



HOURS **Residents:**

1-800-646-1431 Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Reuse Room closes at 3:30 p.m.)

Businesses: Monday – Saturday, by appointment only

Holiday Closures: Nov. 11, 23 & 24, Dec. 25 & 26, Jan. 1 & 2, Feb. 12&19





Many of the pipes installed in the 1950s and 1960s (like those shown above) may need to be replaced.

GRAVITY UNDERGROUND

The journey from your home to our treatment plant is complex

ur treatment plant cleans an average of 34 million gallons of wastewater each day and returns that cleaned water to the environment. Cleaning wastewater, or reusing it for other beneficial purposes, is at the core of Central San's mission; however, we cannot accomplish this without first collecting all that wastewater from across our 145-square-mile service area.

Over 1,540 miles of sewer pipes make up Central San's collection system, and unlike other utilities, our system relies on gravity. Most utilities are pressurized, which provides flexibility when choosing where and how to install pipes. In our collection system, there are 19 pumping stations with only 22.8 miles of pressurized pipes that are used to push wastewater up and over hills. This means that 98.5% of our system depends on gravity. Our pipes must be strategically engineered to keep flows at the right pace as they head toward our treatment plant.

Currently, more than 530 miles of our system are over 50 years old. As an increasing number of sewer pipes age they require replacement. During these projects old clay and concrete sewers are replaced with modern plastic pipes, which are expected to last 80 to 100 years or more.

Central San uses information from system inspections, maintenance schedules, and other data maintained within the InfoMaster[®] system (*see Page 3*) to determine the right time for each section of our collection system to be replaced to ensure optimal service.





Neighborhood Upgrades

e regularly maintain, repair, or replace sewer lines and other elements of our wastewater collection system to decrease the likelihood of failures and to ensure continuous, trouble-free service for our customers. Our projects may cause short-term inconveniences, but they provide long-term benefits for you and your neighbors. We appreciate your understanding! Here is a brief summary of our current and upcoming major construction projects:

LAFAYETTE: The Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 11 will be installing sewers in the Mountain View Drive, Brook Street and Via Media neighborhoods. Expected completion: Dec. 2017.

MARTINEZ: The Martinez Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 5 will be installing sewers in the in the Gilger Avenue and Ulfinian Way neighborhoods, as well as various others throughout northern Martinez. Expected completion: Jan. 2018.

For more info...

For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200 or ccarp@centralsan.org, or visit CentralSan.org/Construction.

ONLINE:

Detailed project maps are posted on our website, CentralSan.org (check the "Construction Zone" on the right of the home page). PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL

Where to Dispose of Unwanted Drugs

he best way to dispose of your unwanted medications is to bring them to a free drop-off site (like those listed to the right). These sites provide safe disposal and keep unwanted drugs out of your toilet or drain, which can pollute local waters. Transfer pills to a sealable plastic bag before depositing.

Please do not put sharps or anything other than medications in the container!

A list of sharps disposal locations is online: **CentralSan.org/** documents/Sharps_Disposal_Quick_Reference.pdf

For more information, visit **CentralSan.org/HHW** or call 1-800-646-1431.

Kudos to a Customer

"I was prescribed a prescription pain reliever after a tooth extraction and was surprised to also receive a flyer accompanying the drug that recommended flushing down the toilet any unused pills. I contacted our Central Contra Costa Sanitary District who confirmed this is not a safe way to dispose of unwanted drugs. I plan to share this with the hospitals and pharmacies I use."

– Elaine J., Martinez



Please never flush unwanted drugs down the toilet!

Local Pharmaceutical Drop-Off Sites

Alamo Sheriff's Substation 150 Alamo Plaza, Suite C

Clayton Police Dept. 6000 Heritage Trail

Concord Police Dept. 1350 Galindo St.

Danville Police Dept. 510 La Gonda Way

Lafayette Police Dept. 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 130

MARTINEZ:

- Police Dept. 525 Henrietta St.
- Sheriff's Field Ops Bldg. 1980 Muir Rd.
- Contra Costa Regional Medical Center 2500 Alhambra Ave.

Moraga Police Dept. 329 Rheem Blvd.

Orinda Police Dept. 22 Orinda Way **Pleasant Hill Police Dept.** 330 Civic Dr.

San Ramon Police Dept. 2401 Crow Canyon Rd.

Walnut Creek City Hall 1666 North Main St.

Walgreens now has a collection kiosk for unwanted medications at their store in Walnut Creek (2900 Main Street).



Holiday Cooking Don't Let a Plumbing Emergency Ruin Your Holiday

o you know what the busiest time of year is for plumbers? The holiday season!

During this time of year, people tend to prepare elaborate meals, **deep-fry turkeys**, and invite more people into their homes to feast. As a result, the amount of grease, oil and fat going down kitchen sinks increases dramatically.

Grease is a major cause of sewer clogs and overflows.

Prevent clogged pipes and sewage overflows from ruining your holidays by doing the following:

- Keep all grease, oil, fats and fatty foods from going into the sink, garbage disposal, drains, and sewers.
- To dispose of grease, oil and fats, put into a lidded container, mix in an absorbent material, seal the container and put it in the trash.
- Bring large quantities of used cooking oil (such as from a turkey fryer) to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for recycling into biofuels.

We Need Your Eyes (and Nose)!

If you see, smell, or suspect a sewage overflow or spill, please call us right away at (925) 933-0955 or 933-0990 so we can take appropriate action as quickly as possible.





Want to Know More?

ould you or your group like to know more about how we protect the environment? We offer speakers for your group and terrific tours of our treatment plant – FREE!

Please contact Kit Ohlman at (925) 229-7329 or kohlman@centralsan.org, or go to this link to sign up for a free tour: **CentralSanPlantTours.eventbrite.com**.

Custom tours and presentations for groups can also be arranged.

Animal Spotlight: Western Pond Turtle

Hi kids! I am Shelly and protecting our local waters is my #1 job. Central San can remove pee, poo and toilet paper but anything else you flush could end up in our water where animals (like me) live.

ur local waterways are home to hundreds of animals, including the Western Pond Turtle. These California native turtles live in marshes, creeks and ponds throughout Contra Costa County. They prefer to live in areas with logs and rocks, where they can lay out and enjoy the sun. Like humans, Western Pond Turtles can eat plants and animals. These turtles, like all turtles, are reptiles.

Western Pond Turtles rely on you to keep their water clean and healthy. By only putting pee, poo and toilet paper in the toilet, you are helping to protect these turtles and their home.

Spot the Difference: There are five differences between the two turtle pictures below. Can you find them all?



What do Western Pond Turtles eat?	What are Western Pond Turtles?
[] Only Animals	[] Monkeys
[] Only Plants	[] Reptiles
[] Both Animals and Plants	[] Fish
[] Peanut Butter Milkshakes	[] Cartoon Characters
Where do Western Pond Turtles live?	Q: What kind of photos
[] The Jungle	does a turtle take?
[] The Ocean	
[] Marshes, Creeks and Ponds	A: Shellfies!
[] On the Moon	

Kids' Page

The "Bay" Area

ur area is often call the "Bay Area" in part because we live near the famous San Francisco Bay. A bay is a large body of water, often connected to the ocean, that has land surrounding it. While the San Francisco Bay is the most famous, there are actually three bays in our area; the San Francisco Bay, the San Pablo Bay and the Suisun Bay.

Central San cleans wastewater and returns the cleaned water to the bay closest to our treatment plant – the Suisun Bay.

Draw the following creatures living in and around the Suisun Bay:

- 1) A fish swimming in the bay
- 2) A bird flying in the sky
- 3) A butterfly by the flowers
- 4) A turtle on the rocks
- 5) An otter in the water

Spot the Difference Answers: A top hat, a hamburger, a green head, a fish in the water, the reflection (it is reversed).

Q: Why do seagulls live by the sea?

M

A: Because if they lived by the bay, they'd be bagels.



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We Are Here To Help...

General information	(925) 228-9500 or CentralSan.org
Sewer overflows	(925) 933-0955 or 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 CentralSan.org/HHW
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	CentralSan.org
Student Education Programs	(925) 229-7310 or CentralSan.org
Community Information Line	(925) 335-7702



Central San serves 484,200 customers within its 145-square-mile service area.

- Wastewater collection & treatment; Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal for 344,600 people.
- Wastewater treatment & HHW disposal for 139,600 people in Concord & Clayton by contract.
- HHW disposal only.
- Central San headquarters, treatment plant, HHW Facility & Residential Recycled Water Fill Station.

CENTRAL SAN

Board of Directors

Paul H. Causey, President James A. Nejedly, President Pro Tem Michael R. McGill, Director Tad J. Pilecki, Director David R. Williams, Director

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.

Roger S. Bailey, General Manager

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.

Lindy Lavender, Editor, Writer Charles Waltmire, Graphic Designer

View archived issues online at CentralSan.org

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Please *share or recycle* this newsletter.