At a public hearing on June 7, 2007, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) Board of Directors approved a two-year financial plan that includes modest increases to the Sewer Service Charge.

The new annual charge for residential customers for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 will be $300, an increase of $11 per year (or about 92¢ per month), effective July 1, 2007. Should an additional increase prove necessary next year, the Board could elect to increase the annual charge for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 by up to $13.

The new rates business customers will pay depends on the strength and amount of their sewage, and can be estimated by multiplying their 2006-2007 bill by 3.8% for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

The Board determined that the rate increases are necessary to cover the rising costs associated with labor, construction, and regulatory compliance.

The Sewer Service Charge is collected on the County property tax bill as a line item labeled “CCCSD SEWER CHG.” It is CCCSD’s primary source of revenue and covers the costs of collecting, treating and disposing of 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 $55.3 million in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

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, outside services, 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 $43 million in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

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 a portion of local property taxes known as “Ad Valorem” tax. The District’s budgeted property tax revenue for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 is just over $11.6 million, equivalent to approximately $4.8 million draw from District reserves.

These charts show a breakdown of CCCSD’s approximate revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Total District expenses are expected to be about $102.3 million, funded by $97.5 million in revenue and a $4.8 million draw from District reserves.
Draining Pools or Spas

Keep pool and spa water out of storm drains, creeks and the Bay!

When it's time to drain your pool or spa, that water should not be pumped into the street or nearby storm drain. It needs to go to the sewer— but with special care.

State regulators are in the process of changing rules on the proper disposal of pool water, prohibiting discharge to the storm drain system whenever possible. Storm drain flow directly into local waterways. Without treatment, water drained from pools or spas into storm drains can pollute creeks with copper, chlorine, sediments, and other contaminants.

However, draining pool and spa water into the sewer still poses two significant challenges to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District: eliminating copper discharges to the sewer system and not overloading the sewer system. Copper is a pollutant that threatens aquatic life and is used in some products as an algaecide for pools and spas. Our treatment plant can only remove some of the copper from the wastewater. You can help by not using such algaecides. Use chlorine or other alternatives such as sodium bromide, and check with your pool supply company for less-toxic alternatives.

An in-ground pool holds tens of thousands of gallons of water. Even a relatively small above-ground pool, 12 feet in diameter and only four feet deep, will hold about 4,000 gallons of water. Dumping all of that water without restricting the rate of flow into the sewer is a sure way to overload your local sewer and to cause a sewer backup.

Before draining a pool or spa into the sewer system, you’ll need to obtain a small special discharge permit from the CCCSD Source Control Section, or you can use a permitted pool maintenance company to perform that task.

Owners of in-ground pools will receive a mailing from the District on this issue in the near future. Pool owners who do not receive the mailing, as well as the owners of most above-ground pools and spas, should contact CCCSD’s Source Control Section at (925) 229-7288 for further information and guidance on flow rate restrictions, backflow prevention, water quality, and handling special pool maintenance wastes such as acid wash from filters.

Finally, if it’s not possible to drain your pool or spa to the sewer, you should let the chlorine dissipate for a few days and then recycle/reuse the water by draining it gradually onto a landscaped area on your property. Check your city ordinances about other restrictions that may apply.

Overflows Decreasing

The number of sewer overflows within the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District’s service area has steadily decreased over the past four years. There were 135 overflows in 2003, and only 73 in 2006—a 46 percent reduction!

While 73 overflows may seem like a lot, it’s below the industry standard for a collection system of our size and is a relatively small number when looking at 1,500 miles of pipeline into consideration. Most of the overflows (82 percent) were less than 100 gallons.

Sewer pipe blockages caused by roots are the biggest problem and accounted for 71 percent of the overflows last year. Other causes included grease (10 percent), debris (11 percent), and vandalism (6 percent). Infrastructure failure accounted for five percent of last year’s overflows, and just over one percent were chalked up to unknown causes.

Our crews work very hard to keep the public sewer lines clear to ensure continuous, trouble-free service. You can help by preventing fats, oil or grease from going down the drain, and by putting paper towels, disposable wipes and any products other than toilet paper in the trash rather than flushing them down a toilet.
10 Ways to Protect the Bay

Here are ten things we can all do to help protect the Bay, and the rest of our environment, from pollution.

1. **Use alternatives to toxic cleaning products.** Purchase products labeled “non-toxic.” Use baking soda mixed with water as an all-purpose cleaner instead of commercial products made of harsh chemicals. Use a solution of vinegar and water to produce streak-free windows and mirrors without harmful vapors or odors.

2. **Reduce use of toxic pesticides and landscape chemicals.** Use pesticides and weed killers only when absolutely necessary. Choose the least-toxic product, such as insecticidal soap, to target a specific pest. Switch to organic fertilizers which release nutrients slowly. Do not apply chemicals to your yard if rain is forecast, and avoid over-watering to prevent contaminated run-off from flowing into storm drains and the Bay.

3. **Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.** Instead of putting batteries, fluorescent bulbs, paint, solvents, oil, pesticides or other household hazardous waste items in the trash or down the drain, bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

4. **Do not flush medicines.** The chemicals found in many medications can pass through our sewage treatment process and end up in the Bay, where they may harm aquatic life. Instead, ask your pharmacy if it has a take-back program or place them in the trash, out of reach of children and pets (see article on page 5).

5. **Prevent fats, oil and grease from going down the drain.** Grease can clog pipes and potentially cause an overflow that may release sewage to the environment. Instead, collect oil and grease in a sealed container and put it in the trash. Bring large quantities (such as from a turkey fryer) to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for disposal.

6. **Use digital or spirit-filled fever thermometers instead of mercury ones.** A mercury thermometer dropped into a sink can break and release highly toxic mercury into the drain. The mercury in one fever thermometer is enough to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water. Mercury thermometers thrown in the trash contaminate landfills. Bring your mercury thermometers to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and exchange them for digital thermometers—free!

7. **Buy rechargeable batteries.** Dead batteries are considered hazardous waste because they contain metals and corrosive materials that would be harmful to the environment. It is illegal to dispose of them in the trash. Rechargeable batteries will last at least 10 times longer than single-use batteries, saving you money and protecting the environment. Many major retailers that sell rechargeable batteries allow customers to bring them back at no charge. Alternatively, you can bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for recycling/disposal.

8. **Don’t be a litter bug.** Trash on the beach or in gutters can end up in local waters where it may injure or even kill marine animals. Please dispose of trash properly, and recycle plastic bags at major grocery stores.

9. **Wash your car at a commercial car wash.** Washing your car on your driveway or the street will allow the run-off to flow into the storm drain. Water in storm drains flows untreated to the Bay, and the soap, dirt, oil and metals washed from your car will flow with it. Even biodegradable soaps can harm fish and wildlife. Commercial car washes use sewer drains that flow to the treatment plant.

10. **Pass it on!** Share these pollution prevention tips with others so that they can help protect the Bay, too!
Guidelines for Safe Disposal of Unwanted Drugs

What should you do with expired or unwanted medications?

First, check with your pharmacy to see if it offers a pharmaceutical take-back program for your unused drugs.

If a pharmaceutical take-back program is not available, please follow these guidelines for disposing of your medications:

• Take them out of their original containers
• Put them in a sealable container (such as a sealable coffee can or plastic bag)
• Mix in an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter)
• Seal the container
• Put the container in the trash
• Do not dispose of syringes or needles with medications

These procedures may seem more bothersome than the old advice to flush unwanted medications down the toilet, but we’ve learned a lot in recent years. The latest studies have shown that the chemicals in many drugs can harm fish, amphibians and other aquatic life. Sewage treatment plants are designed to treat human waste and biodegradable material; they are not equipped to filter out all traces of these chemicals, which will end up in the Bay.

By following these guidelines, you will be helping to protect the water environment while also ensuring that unwanted medications are disposed of properly and kept away from pets, children, and substance abusers.

Because many medications contain controlled substances, we are unable to accept them at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Federal law allows only the individual to whom the controlled substance is prescribed, or law enforcement personnel, to possess them. To that end, the District has been working closely with the Contra Costa County Sheriffs Department to develop a local pharmaceutical disposal program. Such a program should be in place later this year. Until then, please help to protect our environment by following the above guidelines when disposing of your expired or unwanted medications.

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: July 4, 2007
November 22 - 23, 2007
December 24, 2007 - January 1, 2008

Eligible Communities:
Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392
Why We Don’t Do Curbside Pickup of Household Hazardous Waste

The following letter was sent to the Contra Costa Times (but not to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District) by a Walnut Creek resident. It was published in their Dec. 29, 2006 issue:

“Just the other day, I received a beautiful newsletter from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District. It enclosed a piece of postal literature (sent to a Walnut Creek address—though it was not published) from your company about these services. We’re reprinting it here because we thought you might want to know our reasons for not doing curbside pickup of household hazardous waste.

In partnership with the Mt. View Sanitary District, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District built the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in 1997 after a thorough study concluded that people bringing items to a permanent facility on an as-needed basis would be more cost-effective and environmentally safe than leaving pesticides and other wastes to be picked up from curbs all over central Contra Costa County by a fleet of trucks.

Hazardous waste left on curbs could easily be spilled and cause harm to the environment, children, or pets.

Also, State regulations allow curbside collection of latex paint, waste oil and filters, and universal wastes (such as batteries, computer monitors and other electronic equipment) only. This excludes mercury-containing fluorescent lamps, pesticides, chemicals and all other forms of household hazardous waste.

In most areas of central Contra Costa County, your local trash company will collect curbside waste oil and filters on a weekly or biweekly basis. Please check with your garbage company about these services.

Last year 25,000 residential customers and 130 businesses brought more than 1.9 million pounds of hazardous wastes to the facility when it was most convenient for them.

The collected waste includes:

- More than 1,200 pounds of mercury—enough to fill 45,000 mercury fever thermometers (the mercury in one fever thermometer is enough to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water)
- Nearly 400,000 linear feet of fluorescent lamps (enough to stretch from Martinez to San Ramon and back. Twice!)  
- More than 760,000 quarts of used oil (enough to paint all the homes in Pleasant Hill, inside and out!)
- More than 25,000 car batteries and 140,000 pounds of common household batteries

You’ve probably seen the mess that a tiny oil leak from your car can make on your garage floor. Can you imagine the damage that 760,000 quarts of oil—or any of the other 16 million pounds of hazardous waste materials collected—could make of our environment if disposed of improperly?

Because you and thousands of other conscientious people are taking the time to bring your household hazardous waste to the facility, we are able to keep thousands of tons of pollution from potentially contaminating our water environment.

Sincerely,

Jim Nejedly
President, Board of Directors
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Pour used grease into a disposable container and put in trash. Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Use paper towels to wipe grease from plates, pots, and utensils before washing. Never put greasy food down garbage disposals. If a small amount of grease gets into your drain, run cold water to flush it away as a solid. Hot water will just move the grease down the sewer before it hardens. Bring large amounts of used cooking oil (such as oil from a turkey fryer) to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Fats, Oils, and Greases aren’t just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they’re bad for sewers, too. The second leading cause of all sewer overflows is grease blockages. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

It sticks to the insides of sewer pipes. Over time, it can build up and block the entire pipe.

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat trimmings
- Lard
- Cooking Oil
- Shortening
- Butter & Margarine
- Baked goods
- Food scraps
- Diary products

What is the threat?

Where does the grease come from?

What you can do to help:
Waste Disposal Rules Get Tougher

Benjamin Franklin wrote, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” We now know increasingly stricter pollution regulations are also certainties. It was in response to the last of these inevitabilities, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pretreatment Streamlining Rule, that the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board of Directors adopted changes to CCCSD’s Source Control Ordinance.

The District has seen many such changes in recent history. A mandate from the EPA focused on reducing the amount of mercury in the wastewater flow. Another ruling banned specific pesticides. Removing these toxins from the environment becomes the responsibility of the CCCSD Board. Implementing that removal or reduction is the work of the District’s Source Control Section.

The latest changes from the EPA are related to Fats, Oils and Grease (collectively known as FOG) from food service facilities. FOG can collect in the sewer system, causing blockages and sewage overflows that can be detrimental to both public health and the environment. The changes to CCCSD’s Source Control Ordinance will help to minimize these harmful effects.

All commercial food preparation businesses are required to have a grease trap or grease interceptor installed as part of the operation’s plumbing system. The grease interceptor is the larger of the two devices and it is the volume of business that determines which is used. In either case, the interceptor or trap removes FOG from the wastewater flow before it can enter the sewer system.

Under the new regulations, grease interceptors must be cleaned by a licensed permitted waste hauler at least once every 90 days. Similarly, grease traps must be cleaned according to the manufacturer’s recommended frequency, and professionally cleaned by a licensed, permitted waste hauler at least once every 90 days.

To ensure that FOG removed from a grease interceptor or trap is disposed of properly, each facility must maintain records documenting the disposal location for wastes removed. This can range from disposing of grease trap waste in a garbage dumpster using the Best Management Practices of solidifying that waste first, or transport of the waste by the waste hauler to an off-site recycling facility.

For off-site disposal, documentation provided by the waste hauler must include name, address and phone of the disposal facility on either a manifest form or the service order receipt. This change was prompted by some unscrupulous waste haulers who have dumped waste into storm drains or sewers rather than at a licensed facility. And as the regulations are written, the business owner remains the responsible party for disposal of his or her waste.

If you own or operate a business in the CCCSD service area and could discharge grease or heavy metals (such as mercury or copper) to the sewer system, you should have already received information by mail from CCCSD on how the ordinance may impact you. And to help you understand these changes and be in compliance, the Source Control Section has initiated a free Compliance Consultation without risk of enforcement. While conducting a scheduled site visit, an inspector provides feedback on practices that should be continued and those that are either out of compliance or that could result in a future Notice of Violation.

If you have not received this information or have any questions on the changes, please contact the CCCSD Source Control Section at (925) 229-7288 or by e-mailing tpotter@centralsan.dst.ca.us.

So, while increasingly stricter regulations may be a norm, they do serve to protect the environment. Today. Tomorrow. And well into the future.
Trenchless Technologies Make Sewer Construction Less Disruptive

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) has always been a pioneer in the wastewater industry, often the first to use new technologies that result in better, safer and more economical ways to accomplish our mission of protecting public health and the environment. In 1987, CCCSD became the first utility in North America to use pipe bursting, a “trenchless technology,” for municipal sewer pipeline construction.

What is Trenchless Technology?
Because cracks, settling, root intrusion and other disturbances can cause pipes to deteriorate over time, repairs or replacements become necessary. The traditional method of repairing or replacing sewer pipes involves digging a trench along the entire length of the pipe, uncovering and removing the old pipe, installing the new pipe and covering up the trench. This dig-and-replace method can be very disruptive to communities and the environment.

While traditional open-cut methods may be necessary in some cases, CCCSD uses trenchless technologies whenever possible.

Trenchless technologies typically use the existing pipe (instead of unearthing it) as a host for a new pipe or liner. This drastically reduces digging and disruptions.

CCCSD uses the following three trenchless technology methods most often for sewer repair and replacement:

1. **Pipe Bursting.** A tool with an expansion head is pulled by a cable or driven pneumatically or hydraulically through the existing pipe, breaking it up as it goes, and pulling the new pipeline directly behind it. (Excavations are still necessary to reconnect side sewer pipes and for the new pipeline’s insertion pit.)

2. **Slip Lining.** A new liner or pipe of smaller diameter is inserted into the existing pipe. (As in pipe bursting, excavations are still necessary to reconnect side sewer pipes and for the new pipeline’s insertion pit.)

3. **Cured-in-Place Pipe.** A flexible fabric liner, impregnated with a heat-activated resin, is inserted into the existing pipeline. The resin-impregnated liner is then inflated by air or water pressure so that it expands to fit tightly against the inside of the existing pipe. Hot water or steam is circulated inside to cure/harden the resin-impregnated liner, thus forming a tight seal with the existing pipe. (Unlike pipe bursting and slip lining, side sewer pipes can be reconnected internally, using a robotic cutter, and no insertion pits are required—all access to the sewer line is through existing manholes.)

These and other state-of-the-art trenchless technologies, including directional drilling and microtunneling, are used by CCCSD whenever possible to ensure safer operations, fewer construction delays, less impacts on the environment and communities, and happier customers.

---

**PIECE BURSTING**

3. **Cured-in-Place Pipe.** A flexible fabric liner, impregnated with a heat-activated resin, is inserted into the existing pipeline. The resin-impregnated liner is then inflated by air or water pressure so that it expands to fit tightly against the inside of the existing pipe. Hot water or steam is circulated inside to cure/harden the resin-impregnated liner, thus forming a tight seal with the existing pipe. (Unlike pipe bursting and slip lining, side sewer pipes can be reconnected internally, using a robotic cutter, and no insertion pits are required—all access to the sewer line is through existing manholes.)

These and other state-of-the-art trenchless technologies, including directional drilling and microtunneling, are used by CCCSD whenever possible to ensure safer operations, fewer construction delays, less impacts on the environment and communities, and happier customers.
To protect public health and the environment, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) must regularly maintain, repair or replace sewer lines and other facilities within our 1,500-mile wastewater collection system. We realize construction work is disruptive, and do our best to minimize the inconvenience our projects may cause to residents and businesses.

Here’s a brief summary of our ongoing and future major construction projects:

**Concord**

**A-Line Relief Interceptor, Phase 2a:** This is the second phase of a major sewer installation from Buchanan Fields Golf Course to Meridian Park Boulevard and Galaxy Way. The project will eliminate the need for the Concord Pumping Station, install approximately 5,100 feet of sewer lines (4,000 feet by tunneling) and 9,400 feet of recycled water lines. Construction is expected to begin in October 2007 and finish in August 2008. Estimated construction cost: $20 million.

**Martinez**

**Alhambra Valley Sewer Project, Phase 2:** This is the second phase of a project to install 6,500 feet of a new sewer from the Alhambra Valley Road/Gilbert Lane intersection southward along Sheridan Lane, Wanda Way and Alhambra Valley Road to the intersection of Reliez Valley Road. Construction is expected to begin in August and finish by December 2007. Estimated construction cost: $1.5 million.

**Martinez Sewer Renovations, Phase 1:** This project is the first phase of a renovation program to replace 2,600 feet of deteriorating sewers in Martinez, and will include work at Marina Vista, Ulfinian Way, and Green Street. Construction is expected to begin in July and finish by December 2007. Estimated construction cost: $950,000.

**Orinda**

**North Orinda Sewer Renovation:** This project renovates 3,900 feet of sewers on private property within backyard easements between Van Tassel, Tarry and Snowberry Lanes in northeast Orinda. Construction is expected to start in June 2007 and finish by December 2007. Estimated construction cost is $1.5 million.

**North Orinda Sewer Renovations Phase 3:** This is a comprehensive project to renovate 8,200 feet of deteriorating sewers and do spot repairs in various locations of northeast Orinda. Trenchless technologies will be extensively utilized. Construction of this latest phase is expected to start in July and finish by February 2008. Estimated construction cost: $1.8 million.

**Walnut Creek**

**Walnut Creek Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 5:** This ongoing project (which will include up to 15 phases) is replacing or renovating deteriorating or deficient sewers at numerous sites in Walnut Creek. Phase 5 will renovate 6,500 feet of sewer using open-cut and various trenchless technologies. Construction is underway and should finish by February 2008. Estimated construction cost: $1.6 million.

For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200. ✿
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 48 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 www.centralsan.org
- Sewer overflows (925) 933-0955 or 933-0990
  (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.)
- 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 www.centralsan.org
- Student Education Programs (925) 229-7310 or www.centralsan.org
- Public InfoLine (925) 335-7702 or www.centralsan.org

Past issues of the “Pipeline” are available on our web site: http://www.centralsan.org/education/publications.html

CCCSD Pipeline is brought to you by:
Board of Directors

James A. Nejedly, President
Gerald R. Lucey, President Pro Tem • Barbara D. Hockett, 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

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

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553

Protecting Public Health and the Environment

Please recycle this newsletter.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Concord, CA
Permit No. 530