

The Free Household E-Waste Drop-Off For Novato Residents

Please Help Us Protect the Environment

Saturday, March 24th – Monday, March 26th

Novato Recycling Center, 7576 Redwood Blvd.

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

ELECTRONICS REUSE AND RECYCLING

If your electronics are in working condition you may want to donate them. Several organizations in the area accept working and non-working computers and other electronics.

Goodwill Donation Centers

Goodwill accepts most electronic equipment, **WORKING OR NOT**, for reuse or recycling.

Two locations in Novato.

936 Seventh Street, and Vintage Oaks Shopping Center, Rowland Blvd., behind Marshalls

Hours: Daily: 8:30am-12:30pm; 1:00pm-5:00pm

Marin Computer Resource Center

Accepts all types of electronics, including microwaves, for reuse or recycling. FREE

42 Digital Drive, #3, Novato, CA – (415)883-1428

Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm; Sat-10am-4pm

www.mcrc.org

Renew Computers

446 DuBois, San Rafael, CA – (415)457-8801

www.renewcomputers.com

Novato Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Recycles up to 5 monitors or TV's ONLY from Novato residents for free.

What WILL NOT be accepted at this drop-off*:

**NO Large Appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, dishwashers, air conditioners, etc. If you have any of these items please contact Novato Disposal Services at 897-4177 for a pick-up.*

Novato Disposal offers free pick-up of household electronics for single family residential customers up to four (4) times a year, limited to three (3) large items per collection. Call Novato Disposal at 897-4177 to schedule a pick up.

NOVATO BUSINESSES please call 892-6395 for further disposal information.

Questions? Call the HHW Hotline at 892-7344 or go to www.novatosan.com.

Both working and non-working electronics will be accepted at this event.

But please consider donating working equipment to a local charity or thrift store.



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NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

SPRING 2012

Food Composting Will Help Meet Novato's Goal of Zero Waste

Novato Sanitary District's goal is to achieve Zero Waste. That means reducing, reusing, composting or recycling 80% of our community's trash by 2025. We cannot do this alone. We need your help.

Here are Some Easy Food Waste Composting Tips.

GIVE IT A TRY

Simply collect kitchen scraps in your countertop compost bucket and place them in your greenwaste cart. If you don't have a greenwaste cart, contact Novato Disposal at (415) 897-4177. If you need a countertop compost bucket, pick one up at Novato Recycling Center, 7576 Rowland Blvd.

YOU CAN Compost ALL food waste

(including fruit pits, nutshells, eggshells, tea, coffee filters and grounds, bread, grains, meat, dairy, and all leftover foods) and unwaxed, food-related paper waste (including paper towels and plates)!

YOU CANNOT compost plastics or "compostable" plastics, such as "Bio-bags" or "Eco-cups".



Sewer Service Charge Increase Proposed

(Details Inside)

A series of moderate rate increases for the coming four years, averaging about \$1.83 per month has been proposed.

The District's rates will remain among the lowest in Marin County.

For More Information

- See the inside pages of this newsletter.
- Go to www.novatosan.com
- Watch for future mailings and newspaper stories.
- Call us at 415-892-1694.

FREE HOUSEHOLD E-WASTE DROP-OFF

Saturday, March 24th – Monday, March 26th

Novato Recycling Center, 7576 Redwood Blvd.

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

A special three-day FREE drop-off event for Novato residents to recycle old electronic products – E-Waste – such as televisions, computers, VCR's and other small home electronics. **E-waste is hazardous and cannot be disposed of in the trash.**



What WILL be accepted at this drop-off*:

✓ Computers (PC's & Laptops) – maximum of 5	✓ Phones, Cell Phones, Answering Machines
✓ Fax Machines and Small Tabletop Copy Machines	✓ Electric Typewriters
✓ Computers Monitors – maximum of 5	✓ Televisions
✓ Computer Peripherals – (keyboards, printers, scanners, cables, mouse)	✓ Radios, Tape Players, Stereo Equipment, DVD Players, VCR's, Camcorders
✓ Kitchen Appliances – (microwaves, blenders, toaster ovens, coffee makers, etc.)	✓ General Household Appliances – (hair dryers, irons, vacuums, lamps, etc.)

**This is only a partial list of items. If you have a question about an item, please call 892-7344*

Sponsored by Novato Sanitary District and Novato Disposal Services.

For more information, see the inside flap or go to www.novatosan.com

call: 415-892-1694 • e-mail: info@novatosan.com • click to: www.novatosan.com

YOUR RATES FOR TRASH AND SEWER SERVICE REMAIN AMONG THE LOWEST IN MARIN COUNTY

Rates are Based on Fairness to Each Customer

The District has developed fair rates that are based on the actual cost of providing service to each residential customer.

Customers pay for the cost of service based on their winter water use. This is a standard way of estimating indoor water use, since water used in winter on landscaping is limited. Non-residential rates are based on the actual impact of their sewer strength and volume on the system.

Proposal for Increase in the Sewer Service Charge

District staff is proposing an annual rate increase that averages 4.5% each year – about \$1.83 per month average over the next four years. The increase would be the first in two years, and district customers would still pay among the lowest rates in the County.

RESIDENTIAL CHARGES. There have been no increases for the last two years. The current charge is \$464 per year for the average residence. The proposed increase is as follows:

- 2012-13—\$2.58 per month (6.7%)
- 2013-14—\$1.58 per month (3.8%)
- 2014-15—\$1.58 per month (3.7%)
- 2015-16—\$1.58 per month (3.6%)

NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGES. Non-residential customers pay a proportionate charge based on their water use, size of facility, and the strength of the wastewater.



A Proven Record of Cost Cutting and Customer Savings

Novato Sanitary District has taken many steps to keep costs down, so that your rates for both sewer service and trash service are among the lowest in Marin County. Here are some of the cost savings actions we have accomplished:

OBTAINED LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR TREATMENT PLANT. \$1 million Annual Savings. By obtaining special low-interest loans instead of bond-financing results in approximately a 5% rate reduction based on rates at the time the loan was received.

CONTRACTED WITH VEOLIA TO OPERATE THE TREATMENT PLANT. \$1.4 Million Annual Savings. The Veolia contract results in savings of approximately 8% per year.

OBTAINED GRANTS FOR RECYCLED WATER. \$2 Million. The grants lower rates by 1%.

ADJUSTMENTS IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LOWER COSTS. \$100,000 Annual Savings.

We made changes to pension costs, reduced pensions for new hires, and employees began paying some pension costs, resulting in overall savings of \$100,000 per year. These savings will increase over time with employee turnover.



THE DISTRICT HAS LOWERED COSTS AND OBTAINED GRANTS THAT DECREASE YOUR SEWER BILLS BY ABOUT \$75 ANNUALLY.

OTHER COST SAVING ACTIONS.

- Reduced Retiree Medical Benefits
- Utilize Competitive Contracting for Construction
- Carry Out Strategic Capital Improvement Planning
- Cooperate with Other Agencies to Achieve Efficiencies

Rates would be higher by approximately \$75 per year without these cost-saving measures.

MUCH OF THE SANITARY SYSTEM WAS BUILT IN THE 1950s AND 1960s, AND HAD REACHED THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE.

THE DISTRICT HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM TO UPGRADE EVERY PART OF ITS SANITARY SYSTEM TO MEET STRICT NEW QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

Massive Sewer System Upgrade on Schedule

For the last decade, the District has been undertaking a massive rebuilding of the entire sanitary system. The nearly \$200 million total program remains on-schedule.

TREATMENT PLANT COMPLETE. The treatment plant was completed two years ago and is performing even better and more cost-effectively than expected, while providing large energy savings.

SANITARY PIPELINE AND PUMP SYSTEM UPGRADES CONTINUE. Even as it built the treatment plant, the District has been investing as much as \$5 million each year in necessary upgrades and maintenance to the sewer pipeline, pump station and manhole system. After more than a decade of work, the District has upgraded all areas prone to major sewer spills and overflows. Yet, more work remains to be done to reach our goal of zero spills.

