

MARCH 2010

NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

District's Wastewater and Trash Management Protects the Environment, Provides Quality Service and Keeps Costs Down

Our comprehensive management and environmental programs are designed to meet clean water standards, save customers money and provide quality service.

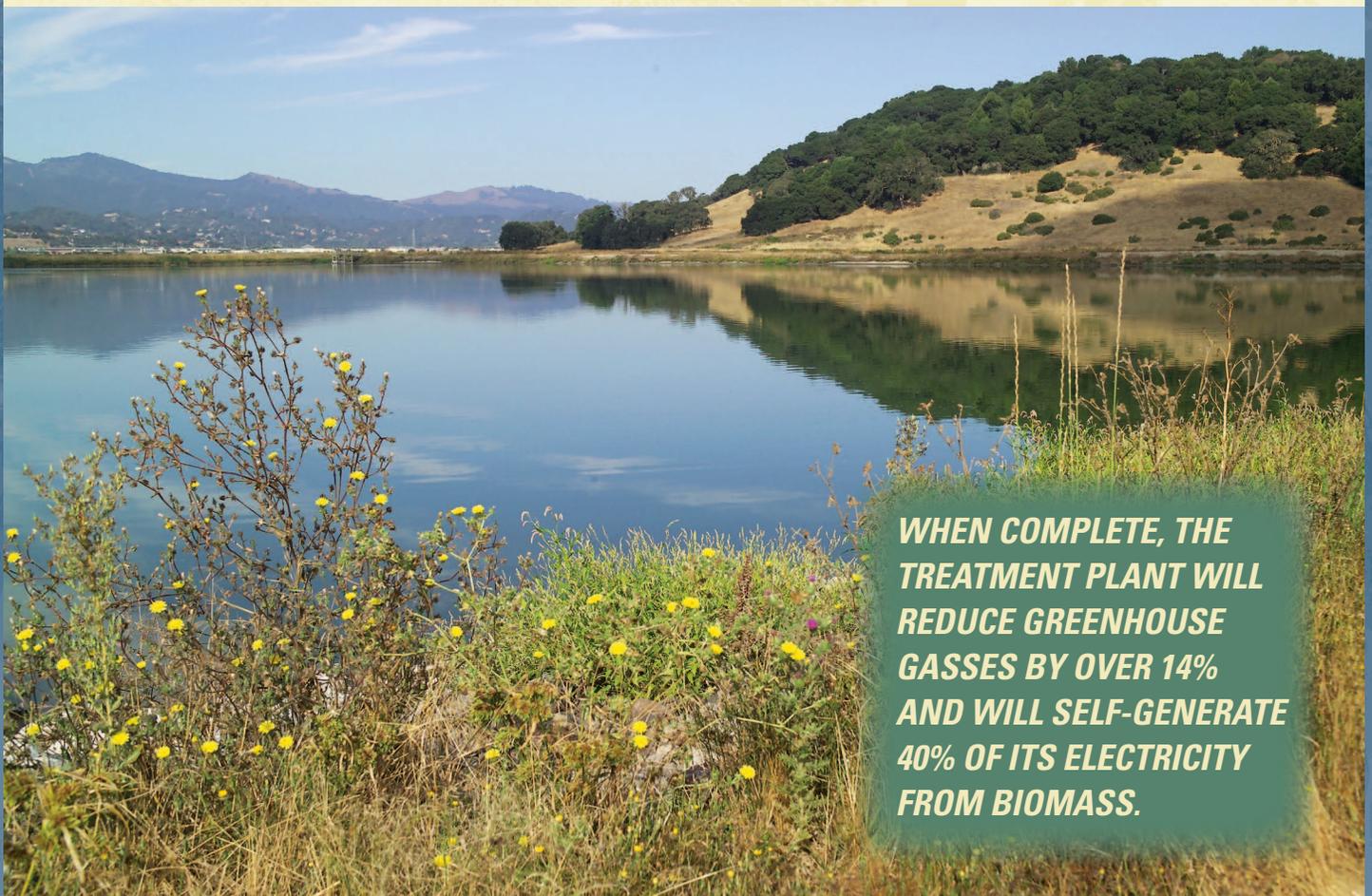
District Set June 8 Vote So Customers Can Decide Who Should Operate the Plant

Last fall, Novato Sanitary District signed a contract with an experienced company to operate its wastewater treatment plant for five years.

Under the contract, the District would continue to own the facilities, set rates and make all policy decisions through its elected Board of Directors. There are incentives to protect water quality by requiring the contractor to pay all fines or lawsuits if there are violations of regulations. In addition, the contract provides for public oversight by staff, the Board and an outside auditor on the contractor's environmental and financial performance.

However, some individuals and organizations have vigorously questioned the District's conclusions about cost savings, local control, environmental protections and other aspects of the contract, and submitted a petition to hold a referendum on the subject. To assure full public input into this important decision, the Board of Directors has scheduled a customer vote for June 8, 2010 on whether to adopt the existing contract.

Did You Know That the District's Treated Wastewater is Recycled to Support this Beautiful Wetlands?



**WHEN COMPLETE, THE
TREATMENT PLANT WILL
REDUCE GREENHOUSE
GASSES BY OVER 14%
AND WILL SELF-GENERATE
40% OF ITS ELECTRICITY
FROM BIOMASS.**

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING PROGRAM BENEFIT WHOLE

New School Food Waste Recycling Program Reduces Costs

Will Save \$55,000 Each Year for Novato Schools

Novato Sanitary District is implementing a new food waste recycling program that decreases trash hauling costs by half, from about \$110,000 to \$55,000 per year for Novato Unified School District. The program will reduce costs for schools, increase the recycling rate and help the environment.

The program is being funded by Novato Sanitary District's franchise trash hauler, Novato Disposal, which is carrying out a similar program in Petaluma schools this year.

The \$55,000 discount is equal to the total value of the food and recyclables that are recoverable from the schools trash. This incentive was given in exchange for the School District's commitment to participate actively in increasing food recycling.

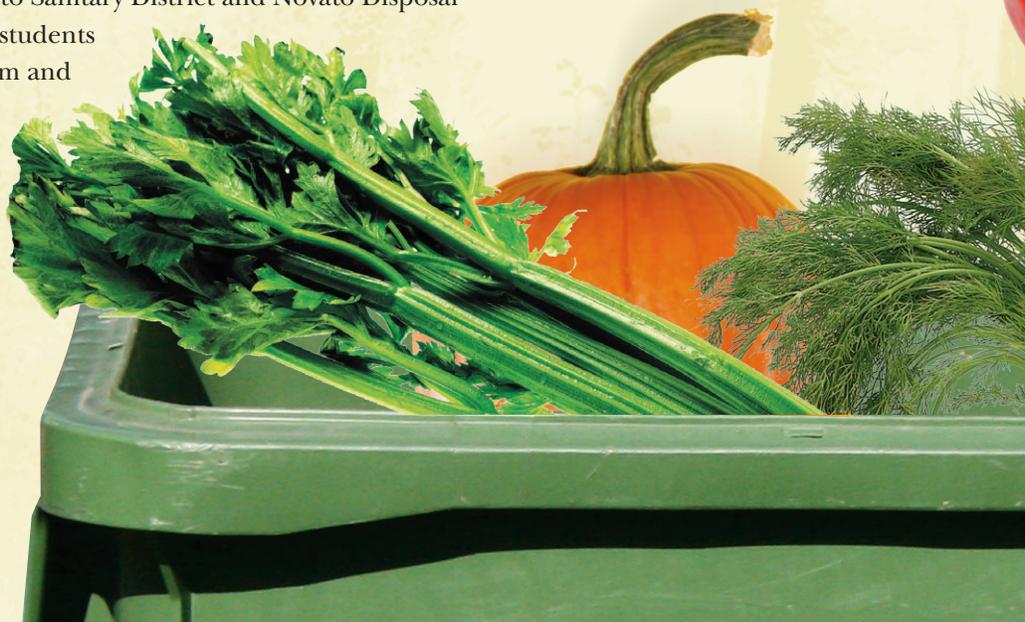
"By composting the food, we will haul less garbage, and convert the food scraps into a useful soil amendment," says Steve McCaffrey of Novato Disposal.

Novato Sanitary District and Novato Disposal

staff will work with school staff and students to carry out the composting program and promote an increase in current recycling in the coming months.

"I AM THRILLED ABOUT THIS CREATIVE FOOD WASTE RECYCLING AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM. WITH THE EXTREME BUDGET PRESSURES WE ARE FACING, THE \$55,000 COST SAVINGS WILL REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE".

***DR. JAN LA TORRE-DERBY,
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.***



AMS E COMMUNITY

Residential Food Waste Composting, Too

Coming This Spring: Turn Your Leftovers into a Landscape

Marin County will have its first food waste composting program right here in Novato! The District's franchise garbage disposal and recycling company is initiating a local food waste composting pilot project, set to begin in April along one route. Residents in the pilot project area will be notified before the project begins.

The program is simple: residents will be able to collect food scraps and waste from their kitchens and dispose of them in their regular green waste can along with leaves, grass clippings, etc. It will all be composted together and used as a soil amendment. This could potentially reduce the amount of residential trash by 35%.

The District is seeking a way to implement residential food waste composting throughout the entire District. The pilot program is a first step toward meeting that goal.

Sign Up to Win a Kitchen Compost Bin

**Sign-up Before April 9th to Win at: www.NovatoSan.com
or Call: 892-1694**

Your Sanitary District, along with Novato Disposal will be giving away two under-the-sink food waste cans to its customers.

These make it easy to store food scraps in your kitchen before carrying them out to the greenwaste bin.

District Offers Free Environmental Programs to Novato Schools

San Ramon Elementary School 3rd graders recently learned about keeping our waterways clean by not disposing of fats, oils and grease down their drains. The "Go with the Flow" program offers a juggler, who uses props to entertain the children while teaching them how to keep their environment clean. This program is offered to all Novato schools and is sponsored by Novato Sanitary District and the SavrBay program along with other Marin County Sanitary Districts.

To book the *Go With The Flow* Juggler for Your School, Call 650-266-8286.



Novato Sanitary District Is a Certified Green Business:

Did you know that Novato Sanitary District is a certified Green business? In fact, the District's core job is to protect the environment and public health. Below are some examples of the District's environmental programs:

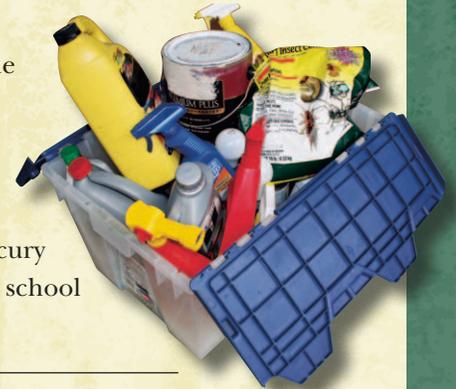
Wetlands and Pastures Maintained with Recycled Water.

Novato Sanitary District maintains an innovative and low-cost system consisting of 800 acres of treatment ponds and pasture lands to receive its treated wastewater during the summer.

Microturbine cuts electricity use. The District's microturbine can burn methane gas generated by the wastewater treatment process. It produces less air pollution than traditional methods.

Sponsor of Pollution

Prevention Programs. The District sponsors many pollution prevention programs: hazardous waste disposal, old electronics disposal, mercury thermometer exchanges, school programs and more.



Tour the District's Wetlands and Pasturelands



**Thursday Mornings at 8:00 a.m.
By Appointment**

Have you ever wondered about the beautiful pasturelands and wetlands just north of Highway 37? Here's a chance to see how that area is used to recycle wastewater, lower costs and keep our Bay clean.

Tour Your New Wastewater Treatment Plant



**Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
April 3, 10, 24 and May 8 and 15**

It's a high tech wonder designed to protect water quality in the Bay, provide recycled water, decrease energy use and serve our community for decades. Construction is nearly complete so come visit before it is all sealed up.

Call 892-1694 For a Tour Appointment



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