



## Residential Food Scrap Composting Launched Community-Wide

Novato Disposal, the franchise solid waste contractor for Novato Sanitary District, was given the go-ahead to begin collecting food scraps in the yard waste bins for composting. Currently, only homes with yard waste collection are included.

### Working Toward Zero Waste Goals

Novato Sanitary District is amending the Franchise Agreement with Novato Disposal to incorporate the first Zero Waste Goals in Marin County at minimal cost to Novato residents. The new contract will phase in over time, with a 2025 requirement that Novato Disposal recycle or compost 80% of everything we collect and keep it out of landfills.

### Plan to Expand Food Composting Program

Novato Disposal has already implemented the first step toward reaching zero waste goals by providing for food waste composting to schools and to single family homes with yard waste collection. The next step will be to extend this food waste composting to apartments and condominiums, and then to supermarkets and restaurants with a target goal of 2012. Food Waste recycling will come next with a target goal of 2012. They will also be expanding efforts to increase recycling at commercial and multi-family customers.

### Some Tips on Containers

Many residents choose to place their food scraps in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper and dispose of them every day. Simple plastic containers with lids also work well to collect scraps. Be aware that some plastics absorb food odors. Food scraps that include meat could be kept in a small container in the refrigerator.

WE'RE WORKING TO RECYCLE OR COMPOST 80 PERCENT OF EVERYTHING WE COLLECT, AND KEEP IT OUT OF LANDFILLS AS PART OF OUR ZERO-WASTE GOALS. COMPOSTING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT.

For more information see the Novato Disposal Website at [www.unicycler.com/residential/marin/novato](http://www.unicycler.com/residential/marin/novato)



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# NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

SPRING 2011

## Rate Study Underway

### District Continues Modernizing the Wastewater System to Meet Long-Term Needs

Starting about five years ago, the District began implementing an intensive plan to replace or rehabilitate its sewer pipelines and pump stations with stronger, newer materials. Since then, the District has been investing up to \$5 million each year in upgrades, replacements, and intensified maintenance.

During those same years, the District designed and built a modern treatment plant and put financing and rates in place to fully pay its costs. With the new treatment plant complete, the District is now intensifying its program of sewer pipeline upgrades in order to meet public expectations and regulatory requirements that ban all sewer spills and overflows.

To ensure the needed system upgrades can be adequately funded, the District is undertaking an in-depth review of costs and rates.

Over the coming months we will be sharing information with the community and seeking input. Look for updates in the press, at the District's website and in future mailed notices.



### Dispose of Home Electronics Safely at the FREE, E-WASTE EVENT



Friday, May 6 thru  
Monday, May 9  
10 AM – 3 PM

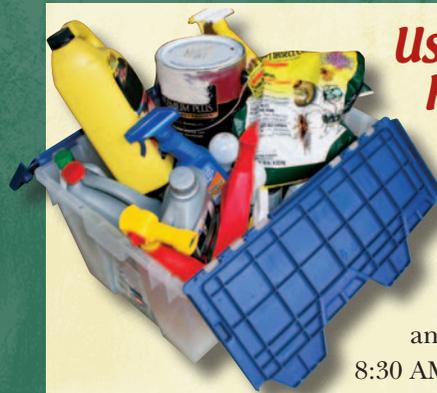
Novato Recycling Center, 7576 Redwood Blvd. Call 892-7344 for more information.

Bring computers, tabletop fax and copy machines, computer monitors, computer peripherals, small appliances, telephones, TVs, radios, stereo equipment.

## Use the Free Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility

*The District's most important job is to protect public health and the environment but we need you to do your part to help protect our community and environment.*

You can help protect public health and the environment by utilizing the District's **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility** located behind the Novato Recycling Center at 7576 Redwood Blvd. The Facility is open the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Mondays of each month, excluding most holidays, from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM. For more information, and the schedule, call the HHW hotline at 892-7344 or go to [www.novatosan.com](http://www.novatosan.com).



## Safely dispose of your prescription medications at the following pharmacies in Novato:

All CVS pharmacies or Costco pharmacy

### Most Hazardous Wastes Are Accepted, Including:

- |  |                           |                            |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aerosols                                 | Cosmetics                 | Motor Oil                  |
| Auto Products                            | TVs and Computer Monitors | Paints                     |
| Asbestos in small amounts, double-bagged | Fluorescent Tubes & Bulbs | Pesticides                 |
| Batteries of all kinds                   | Fuels                     | Small Propane Tanks        |
| Building Products                        | Household Cleaners        | Fire Extinguishers         |
|  |                           | Thermometers & Thermostats |

call: 415-892-1694 • e-mail: [manager@novatosan.com](mailto:manager@novatosan.com) • click to: [www.novatosan.com](http://www.novatosan.com)

# MASSIVE SEWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROGRESSING ON-SCHEDULE

About a decade ago, Novato Sanitary District took up the challenge of rebuilding every part of the sanitary system to meet strict new quality standards. A great deal of progress has been made on the three-part upgrade program with the completion of the new treatment plant, massive improvements to the sewer pipeline collection system, and kick off of our first lateral pilot program.

## 1 Major Upgrade Completed: THE TREATMENT PLANT

First priority was construction of the new, \$90 million, advanced wastewater treatment plant. Completed this year, it is being phased into full operation now.



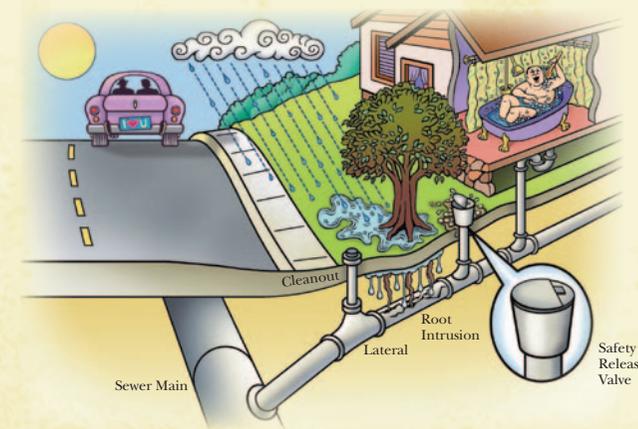
## 2 Major Upgrade Underway: THE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Beginning around 2000, the District developed a sewer collection system master plan. This details all the upgrades, improvements and maintenance needed for the 220 miles of sewer pipelines, 40 pump stations and 6,000 manholes. Following the Master Plan, the District has invested up to \$5 million each year in upgrades and maintenance to the collection system. The upgrade program is anticipated to be largely complete within the next four years, and will result in a state-of-the-art system that the Novato community can be proud of as a role model for wastewater systems in the Bay Area.

## 3 Next Major Challenge: LATERALS

The third leg of the program is to repair and upgrade private sewer lines that run from homes and buildings to the public sewer main in the street. There are more than 200 miles of laterals in Novato; and many are deteriorating and are a major factor in sewer overflows and spills.

Recognizing that it could take years to resolve the lateral problem, the District has been upsizing both its treatment plant and collection system improvements to handle high inflows of stormwater into damaged laterals. The expanded public sewers and treatment plant should accommodate inflows from damaged laterals until about 2025. This buys the District and the community time to design solutions and raise funds needed to repair private sewer laterals.



Inspect and maintain your sewer lateral when you have sewer drain problems or when you purchase a home or building.

**STORMWATER FLOWS THROUGH SOIL AND ENTERS CRACKS AND BREAKS IN DAMAGED LATERALS. THIS CAN CAUSE SEWER FLOWS TO INCREASE BY 600% DURING RAINSTORMS AND LEAD TO SEWER SPILLS.**

## Treatment Plant Update

The District's new treatment plant is now nearly fully operational and its new odor control system—the last part of the plant to be completed—is working well. The discharge of the plant is of exceptionally high quality. The plant has dramatically decreased the District's carbon footprint, lowered greenhouse gas generation, through greater energy efficiency, improved water quality and the new contracted operator, Veolia, is performing very well.



## How Private Laterals Cause Sewer Spills

Spills and overflows occur during rain storms, when large amounts of stormwater percolates through the soil into cracks in the damaged laterals, mixing with sewage and then potentially overwhelming the sewer pipelines and treatment plant.

Damaged laterals are a serious problem that costs the entire community, which is why the District is proactively working to find solutions.

### Laterals Become Blocked by Tree Roots



Blockages by roots and grease lead to sewage spills and overflows.

### Laterals Clog with Cooking Grease



### Laterals Crack, Break & Fill with Stormwater



Stormwater flows through soil and enters cracks and breaks in damaged laterals.