



Critical Treatment Plant Upgrade Underway

The District has launched the critically needed upgrade of its treatment plant facilities. The environmental analysis is complete, most of the engineering design has been finished, and construction has begun.



Completion is anticipated by 2010. The upgrade is needed to replace aging facilities, meet strict new wastewater treatment requirements, lower maintenance costs, improve efficiency and decrease greenhouse emissions.

Alternative Financing

New sewer rates adopted last year

will pay the initial costs of the upgrade program. Recent spikes in costs, especially for concrete and steel are increasing the overall cost of the project. The District is seeking to obtain a low-cost state loan, and is considering other changes to limit changes to planned rates.

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

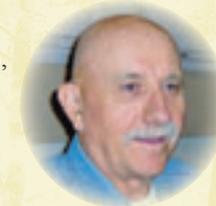
Joint Project With Coastal Conservancy

Novato Sanitary District's wastewater outfall pipeline and a facility to dechlorinate treated wastewater run through a portion of the Hamilton Field that is being converted to a wetlands. The Coastal Conservancy funded the \$1.7 million cost to move the District's Dechlorination Facility away from the soon-to-be wetlands.



Thank You Director Sam Renati

After serving the customers of Novato Sanitary District for 13 years since 1993, Sam Renati has stepped down from his position on the Board of Directors.



Sam was a great supporter of the District's Facility Upgrade Project and expansion of recycled water facilities. He felt it was particularly important that the District provide good service at a reasonable cost.

He is busy pursuing his hobbies: traveling, fishing, boating and flying. We wish him all the best.

Welcome Mike DiGiorgio

Mike DiGiorgio was elected to replace Sam Renati on the Board of Directors. Welcome Mike!

You Can Help in Campaign Against Mercury Pollution

San Francisco Bay is contaminated by mercury, an element found in many household items. It is also a potent human toxin. Humans are at risk when they eat fish or wildlife from areas impacted by mercury. Dispose of hazardous waste properly to keep mercury and other toxics out of landfills and the environment.



Mercury is found in many common items, such as fluorescent lights, thermometers, thermostats and batteries. A significant amount of mercury in the Bay also comes from abandoned mines.

Where to Dispose of Household and Business Hazardous Waste

7576 Redwood Blvd., to the rear of the Novato Recycling Center.

Business Hazardous Waste

Novato Sanitary District and the City of Novato offer a program for eligible businesses to dispose of small quantities of hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste includes lab and photo chemicals, paints, solvents, pesticides, acids, printing inks and more.

For information, call the Novato Business Hazardous Waste Hotline at 892-6395.

Appointments can be made to drop off small quantities of hazardous wastes on the first and third Sundays and Mondays of each month.

Household Hazardous Waste

Call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 892-7344 to make an appointment.

Appointments can be made to drop off hazardous wastes on the first and third Sundays and Mondays each month.

Common substances—such as paint, solvents, pesticides, motor oil, antifreeze and battery fluids—are toxic pollutants and should be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.



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Thanks to NOVATO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL for being a leader in the campaign against mercury by becoming a mercury-free facility, replacing mercury-containing blood pressure devices and thermometers with non-mercury devices and recycling fluorescent lights.



PROTECTING THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Novato Sanitary District is modernizing its treatment plant and investing millions of dollars each year to upgrade its sewer pipelines. But even the most up-to-date facilities strain to meet increasingly strict wastewater standards. Here are a few of the important actions you can take to help protect public health and the environment.



Here's How You Can Help Prevent Sewer Spills and Backups

Install a Backflow Prevention Device

If your home or business is on a hill, there is an increased risk of sewage backup. Contact the District to determine if you have a proper backflow prevention device installed.



Protect Your Lateral Sewer Line

The pipeline leading from a home or business, called a sewer lateral or side sewer, is the responsibility of the property owner. The sewer lateral connects the house to the District's sewer main.

- Your sewer lateral pipeline should never be broken or cut to connect to a rain gutter or a drain. Tree roots, rodents or contaminants can enter through a break, creating maintenance, health and environmental problems.
- You should have the lateral inspected periodically, especially when purchasing property, to ensure it is in acceptable condition.

The pipeline leading from a home or business, called a sewer lateral or side sewer, is the responsibility of the property owner.

You Can Stop the FOG! Fats, Oils and Grease

All local sanitary districts are required to address the problems caused by fats, oils and grease in the sewers. Novato Sanitary District is working with neighboring agencies to figure out how to best play our part in the solution. Here is what you can do to keep grease out of the sewer.

Fats, oils and grease aren't just bad for your arteries, they're bad for the sewer system too. You can help prevent costly grease blockages in your own plumbing, and at the same time lower sewer system problems and maintenance:

DO wipe greasy pots and dishes with paper towels before washing them in a dishwasher or in the sink.

DO pour grease or oil into a container with a lid and put the sealed container into the trash for disposal.

DON'T pour grease or oil into your kitchen sink—or any sink or toilet.



Restaurants are a particularly large source of fats, oils and grease. If you operate a restaurant, call us (415) 892-1694 for tips on how you can minimize grease from clogging your own and our sewer pipelines.



Grease buildup from customers clogs the inside of sewer pipelines, requiring costly maintenance as often as once each month to prevent sewage overflows. Our maintenance crew uses special vacuum and water jet trucks to clean the sewer collection pipeline system.

The District invests \$2.5 million each year to upgrade and maintain its 200 miles of pipelines and 40 pump stations.



Improved Maintenance Lowers Costs and Improves Quality

By being proactive and using the latest technologies, we have been able to provide high-quality service while protecting the environment.

Modern Technology Improves Quality and Lowers Costs

The District uses advanced technology to help prevent spills:

- **Digital Mapping and Video Inspection Improves Maintenance.** The District videotapes the inside of its pipelines. The video is used in digital maps that represent the location of pipelines as well as roads, buildings and other information. Staff can view maintenance records and technical specifications for every pipe, with only a few mouse clicks.
- **Software Helps Set Maintenance Priorities.** A special software program uses digital mapping data to assign a maintenance schedule to each pipeline. The software automatically updates the schedule as new information is collected, improving service and lowering costs.
- **Computer Hydraulic Modeling.** A mathematical model of the major pipelines analyzes the system under various conditions, such as high flows to ensure that the system always works as it should.



New Maintenance Approach Yields Low Long-Term Costs

The District recently began using an asset management approach that helps determine the lowest, long-term, life cycle cost for maintenance and facility replacement plans.

The District recently purchased a specialized TV van with special video equipment that crawls through sewer pipelines to videotape their condition. This helps us improve reliability and lower maintenance costs.