

MAY 2010

# NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

## *Novato Sanitary District* **EARTH DAY** Activities

As a certified Green Business since 2004, every year the District participates in Earth Day activities as it did again this year. "We strongly believe in protecting our environment by educating our customers about clean water, recycling, and proper disposal of hazardous waste," commented Beverly James, District Manager-Engineer. This year, during earth week, the District initiated a residential food scrap composting program to further reduce waste.

The District also staffed a booth at the Novato Chamber Business Showcase at Stone Tree Golf Course and participated in the Fireman's Fund Earth Day Expo, all in conjunction with Earth Day. The booths offered educational brochures, games, quizzes and prizes to further educate the public about keeping our waterways clean, recycling hazardous waste and more.



### *Rate Study Underway*

An independent financial company is undertaking a study of the District's projected revenues and expenses over the coming five years. The study is needed to determine if the District will need to raise annual sewer service charges in the upcoming fiscal year or years.

There are a number of near term items that have put pressure on the budget, including election expenses and increased legal fees due to several measures and challenges. Over the coming five years, the greatest projected impact on the budget will be whether the District operates the treatment plant under a contract agreement or not.

If it is determined that sewer service charges need to be increased, a notice of a potential change in rates would be sent in mid-June to all property owners, and a public hearing would be held in late July before action would be taken on it.

# NOVATO'S NEW TREATMENT PLANT

## *Asset to Community and Environment*

*Novato Sanitary District has taken its commitment to a clean environment, clean Bay and clean community seriously by upgrading its treatment facilities, and sewer pipeline collection system. These improvements will meet the high standards for wastewater quality in San Francisco Bay and the environment.*

## **New Plant Meets Regulations, Is Efficient and Cost Effective**

The new treatment plant replaces two aging treatment facilities with a single new modernized plant. One aging and obsolete plant was replaced by a major new pump station, and its wastewater flow is carried by a new pipeline to the new main treatment plant.

Improvements include efficient treatment processes that comply with all current standards, re-use of the portions of the plant built since the 1980s that are still usable, and addition of backup facilities in case of equipment failure or emergencies.

## **Plant Design Reaps Benefits of a Holistic Approach**

The new plant design incorporates solutions to diverse and complex requirements of often competing interests. For example, the new plant combines the capacity to meet future needs with a reduced carbon footprint and lower green house gas generation through greater energy efficiency. The plant also features enhanced treatment capabilities for improved water quality, resulting in a better, more holistic approach to protecting the San Pablo Bay and our environment.

### **Collection**



*230 miles of public sewer pipelines and 40 pumping stations collect and bring wastewater to the treatment plant.*

### **Pre-Treatment**



*Special equipment with screens and grates remove plastics, sand and grit from the wastewater.*

## **Novato Sanitary District** *Who we are, what we do*

The Novato Sanitary District, which serves the citizens of Novato, has many responsibilities in the community, including collection & treatment of wastewater; irrigating wetlands and open space; collecting trash, recycling and yard waste; and disposing of hazardous household waste. The District franchises out garbage and recycling to Novato Disposal and contracts out the operations of its Household Hazardous Waste removal program.



892-1694  
[www.novatosan.com](http://www.novatosan.com)

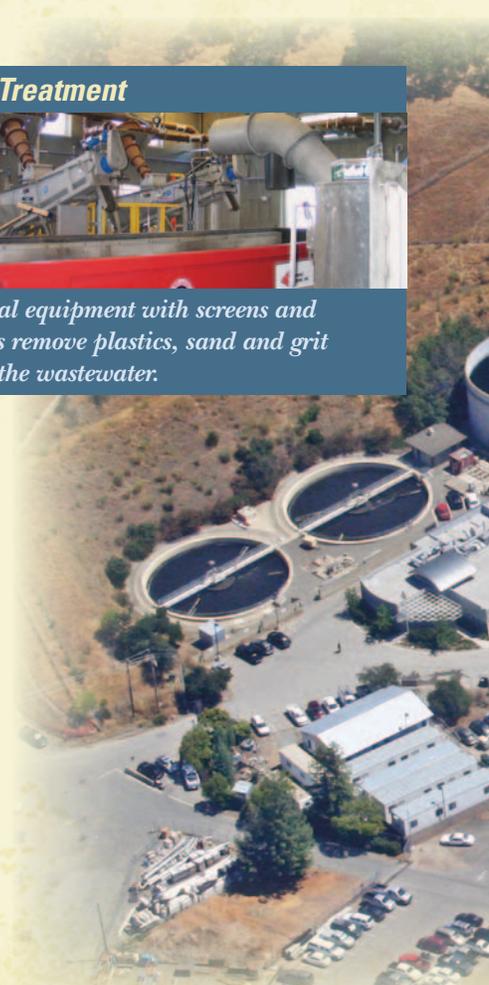
**NOVATO DISPOSAL**  
897-4177  
[www.unicycler.com](http://www.unicycler.com)

**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
Residential: 892-7344  
Business: 892-6395

### **Energy Recovery**



*The new plant is controlled by a sophisticated computer system that monitors all of the processes.*



# PLANT IS NEARING COMPLETION

## Odor Control



*Odor control system being installed.*

## Primary Treatment



*Grease and heavy solids are removed.*

## Secondary Treatment



*Natural bacteria consume organic solids.*

## Disinfection



*The wastewater is disinfected with ultraviolet light—instead of using chlorine or other hazardous chemicals.*

## Solids



*Organic solids are digested anaerobically to produce methane gas which can be used to power the plant.*

## Recycling



*Water is recycled for use on 820 acres of wetlands and pasture lands. A smaller amount is treated to even higher levels to irrigate a local golf course.*

