



# THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 2

SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Winter 2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Juliet Christian-Smith  
President

Paul Gilbert-Snyder  
Vice President

Tessa Beach  
Director

Dwight Merrill  
Director

Beatrice O'Keefe  
Director

## DISTRICT MANAGER/ ENGINEER

Rex Delizo, P.E.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To protect public health and the environment for the communities we serve through planning and operation of a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection system.

## INSIDE

Holiday Food Drive  
and Toy Program ..... 2

Backflow Prevention  
Device..... 2

Sewer Service Charge..... 2

Lateral Repair/Replacement  
Always get at Least  
Three Quotes..... 3

Helpful Reminders ..... 3

Recycle Used  
Cooking Oil ..... 4

Spotlight on Service  
Canon Drive  
Pump Station ..... 4



## Don't Connect Roof or Yard Drains to the Sewer System



The Stege Sanitary District is responsible for the collection and transport of wastewater from homes, schools, and businesses within its boundaries to the EBMUD wastewater treatment plant in Oakland. A different storm drain collection system deposits rainwater runoff from streets into creeks that eventually lead to San Francisco Bay.

It's important that homeowners do not pipe rainwater, either from house gutters or a sump pump, into the sanitary sewer system. Neither the District's wastewater system nor the EBMUD treatment plant are designed to handle large volumes of runoff from a rainstorm. Sanitary sewer overflows might occur if rainwater is diverted into the wastewater collection system. Rainwater should be directed into the street, ground, or directly to the storm drain system.

Piping rainwater into the sewer system violates District, federal, and local ordinances. Penalties and fines may be imposed for these violations.

If you see a maintenance hole overflowing in the street immediately call the District at (510) 524-4667 and we will promptly send a maintenance team to evaluate the situation. **S**

## Sewer Problems? Call Us First!

Slow drains? Water or sewage backing up into your home?

The problem might be a clog in your lateral—the private sewer line that runs from your home to the public sewer main—or the problem might be in the sewer main itself. **Call us before you call a plumber.** The District maintains a 24/7 emergency hotline that is always answered by a person, not a recording. The number is (510) 524-4667. If necessary, we will send out a crew to inspect and let you know if you need a plumber. The inspection is free and we try to respond within one hour of your call. **S**





# Backflow Prevention Device

## Holiday Food Drive and Toy Program

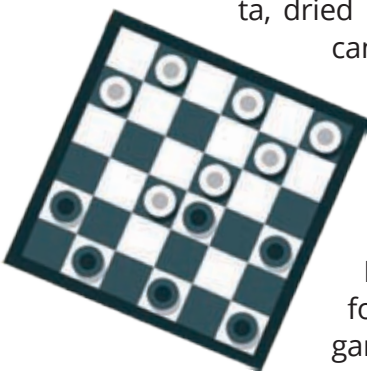


Stege Sanitary District will again collect food donations for Thanksgiving and toys for the Holiday Toy Program.

Food donations can be dropped off in the collection barrel in the lobby of the District office on Schmidt Lane.

Bring tomato sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, dried beans, rice, peanut butter, and other canned foods to the office Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Friday until 4:00 pm.

New, unwrapped toys and monetary donations to the Holiday Toy Program can be dropped off at the District office anytime of the year. Toys for preteens and teens, including board games, puzzles, and balls, are especially needed.



If your house lateral is not far enough above the rim of the next upstream sewer maintenance hole and there is an extraordinarily high volume of water in the main, or if a blockage downstream forces sewage back upstream, you could find sewage coming back out of the drains in your house.

You can prevent this from happening by installing a backflow prevention device (BPD) on your lateral. The District requires BPDs on all new buildings, on laterals that have been repaired or replaced, and on existing buildings that have drain outlets 12" or less above the rim of the next upstream maintenance hole. The overflow device, which is installed outside, provides an emergency escape path should wastewater back up in your lateral.

Installing a backflow prevention device requires a permit, which is available at the District's office at 7500 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito.

## Sewer Service Charge

Sewer service charges cover the cost of operating and maintaining the sanitary sewer system. Stege Sanitary District collects and delivers sanitary wastewater to EBMUD for treatment. EBMUD charges a separate fee for wastewater treatment. Sewer service charges are collected through the annual property tax bills issued by the County. The line item STEGE SEWER CHG are the fees assessed to your property by Stege Sanitary District.

| SPECIAL TAXES & ASSESSMENTS |           |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| DESCRIPTION                 | CODE      | INFORMATION           | AMOUNT          |
| WCCUSD PARCEL TAX           | * CL      | (844) 332-0549        | \$150.90        |
| STRM DRAIN RECONST          | DA        | (800) 676-7516        | \$58.00         |
| MOSQUITO & VECTOR           | DV        | (925) 867-3400        | \$3.12          |
| EMERGENCY MED B             | DY        | (925) 608-5454        | \$10.00         |
| AC TRANSIT PCL TX           | FA        | (800) 273-5167        | \$96.00         |
| FED STORMWATER A-5          | IH        | (925) 313-2023        | \$38.00         |
| SFBRA PCL TAX               | IB        | (888) 508-8157        | \$12.00         |
| WCCUSD ASSESSMENT           | JA        | (800) 273-5167        | \$72.00         |
| EL CER SWIM CTR TX          | JO        | (800) 676-7516        | \$58.46         |
| <b>STEGE SEWER CHG</b>      | <b>JX</b> | <b>(510) 524-4668</b> | <b>\$429.00</b> |
| EASTBAY TRAILS LLD          | * KA      | (888) 512-0316        | \$5.44          |
| EBMD WET WEATHER            | KO        | (866) 403-2683        | \$180.74        |
| EL CERRITO ST LT            | MZ        | (800) 676-7516        | \$72.00         |
| WCC HEALTH-PRCL TX          | NR        | (866) 807-6864        | \$52.00         |


# Lateral Repair/ Replacement

## Always Get at Least Three Quotes

A private sewer lateral (PSL) is the pipe that carries wastewater from your house to the sewer main. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their lateral up to and including the point where the lateral connects to the sewer main.

If your house was built before 1970, chances are your sewer lateral needs repair. If you are experiencing frequent sewer backups, you will probably need to have your lateral repaired or replaced. Trees and shrubs may also cause root intrusion that damages sewer laterals.

A plumber will be able to determine the condition of your lateral. Many plumbers provide free estimates for their work based on a Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) of your lateral.

Always get at least three estimates for work before deciding on a plumber to do the necessary repair or replacement. The District maintains a list of contractors registered to work in the District on its website, [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). 



## Helpful Reminders

### Put Wipes in the Trash, Not the Toilet


Disposable “flushable” wipes don’t disintegrate in water. Instead they accumulate in sewers where they can cause a sewer overflow into your home or into the street. Put all wipes where they belong—in the trash, not in the toilet.








### PSL Compliance Certificate

Buying, selling or remodeling a property in the District? You will need a PSL Compliance Certificate from EBMUD. For more information, go to [www.eastbaypsl.com](http://www.eastbaypsl.com). 

### Public Meetings

The Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors meets once or twice monthly at the District office on Thursday, 7:00 pm, to discuss the business of the District. The public is invited to attend.



Meetings are back in person, but will also be remotely accessible. The agenda for upcoming meetings can be found on [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). Information on how to view a virtual meeting and leave public comment is also listed on [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). 





**STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT**  
7500 Schmidt Lane  
El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 (510) 524-4667

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
OAKLAND, CA  
Permit No. 544

To Contact Us: 24/7 Phone: (510) 524-4667 Email: [staff@stegasan.org](mailto:staff@stegasan.org) Web: [www.stegasan.org](http://www.stegasan.org) Twitter: @StegeSan



## Recycle Used Cooking Oil

**D**eep-frying a turkey this year? Don't pour the cooking oil down the drain. Instead, recycle it!

When Fats, Oil, or Grease (FOG) is washed down the drain, they clog household plumbing, home sewer laterals, and even the sewer main.

Stege customers can recycle used cooking oil at the El Cerrito Recycling Center at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, which is next door to the Stege Sanitary District main office. For information on recycling cooking oil, go to [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) and search for "residential cooking oil and grease drop-off." For a free brochure on keeping pipes FOG-free, call EBMUD at (510) 287-1651.

## Spotlight on Service

## Canon Drive Pump Station

In 2021, the District replaced an 80-year-old pipe along Canon Drive with two pressurized sewer pipes. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Now the District is drawing up plans to rehabilitate the pump station on Canon

Drive, which was built in 1962 and has undergone only minor updates since then. It now needs significant upgrades to bring it up to modern standards of safety and reliability. Construction is slated to begin next year.