

STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1913-1916 Barber, George
 1913-1914 Best, William
 1913-1918 Davis, H.F.
 1913-1919 Huber, William
 1913-1917 Navellier, Emest
 1915-1919 Rust, W.F.
 1916-1916 Dunlay, Frank
 1917-1919 Conlon, George
 1917-1918 Wright, F.W.
 1918-1921 Sandvick, John
 1919-1921 Barber, George
 1919-1920 Meyers, George
 1919-1921 Guidice, A.
 1919-1922 Gray, K.C.
 1920-1922 Tousant, J.
 1921-1923 Lutz, Fred
 1921-1925 O'Connell, John
 1921-1925 Rosana, Joe
 1922-1923 Carrick, George
 1922-1924 Van Fleet, H.
 1923-1925 Facinni, Charles
 1924-1928 Schwake, Charles
 1924-1926 Wuelzer, Edward W.
 1925-1926 Hinds, Clifford
 1925-1929 Christensen, Elmer
 1925-1948 Sandvick, John
 1926-1934 Facinni, Charles
 1926-1934 Soldavini, Charles
 1928-1932 McDonald, French
 1929-1931 Schwake, Charles
 1931-1933 Hiat, E.
 1932-1936 Locklin, W.
 1933-1948 Christensen, Elmer
 1934-1942 Kister, Donald
 1934-1961 Weyand, Walter
 1936-1937 McNabb, L.
 1937-1938 Bartlett, Robert
 1938-1957 Baxter, Alfred

1942-1950 Connors, George
 1948-1975 Smith, Austin
 1948-1975 Copeland, Robert
 1950-1977 Snodgrass, Marion
 1957-1985 Mahon, Charles
 1961-1977 Barbachano, Ulysses
 1975-1979 Siri, Jean
 1975-1987 Valentino, Edward
 1977-1990 Schroeder, Arthur
 1977-1998 West, Donald
 1979-1983 Donahue, Edwin
 1983-2011 James, Jay
 1985- Miller, Alan
 1987- O'Keefe, Beatrice
 1990-1991 Rosti, Mary
 1991-1998 Andrew, John
 1998- Merrill, Dwight
 1999-2006 Bruce, Douglas
 2006- Brand, Graham
 2011- Gilbert-Snyder, Paul

DISTRICT COUNSEL

1930-1932 Huggard, D.
 1932-1935 Jacoby, Harold
 1935-1947 Thompson, A.G.
 1947-1976 Sturgis, Eugene
 1977-1996 Brunsell, Robert
 1996-2004 Esselstein, William
 2004-2010 Riback, Michael
 2011- Reyes II, Benjamin

DISTRICT MANAGER

1957-1984 Baxter, Alfred
 1984-1985 Kneip, Reese
 1985-2000 Rugaard, Lawrence
 2000-2011 Humphrey, Douglas
 2011- Delizo, Rex



Stege Sanitary District 2013 Board of Directors left to right: Dwight Merrill, Graham Brand, Beatrice O'Keefe, Alan Miller, Paul Gilbert-Snyder photo by Photo by Dale F. Mead

STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT HISTORICAL TIMELINE 1913-2013

1913, May

Two hundred twenty-six voters approve creation of Stege Sanitary District and elect five commissioners and a sanitary assessor to run it. Top vote getter is William Huber, the district's leading proponent. The board's first meeting is May 28, 1913.

1913, September 27

Voters approve a bond sale by the district to pay for sewers, 202 for, nine opposed, three "illegally marked."

1913

Stege hands out a liquor license or two at virtually every meeting.

1914, May

Sewer construction gets underway. Outfalls dump raw sewage into San Francisco Bay, the practice of all sewage agencies at the time.

1915, July 22

The first sewer connection permit went to Mr. A. Renwitz.

1917, August

Voters approve incorporation of the city of El Cerrito in an effort led by some of the same people who formed Stege. Opposition from dairymen, quarries and others keeps large areas outside city borders, including Kensington and Bayview, which are served by Stege.

1920s

El Cerrito becomes a residential boom town, as small subdivisions begin filling the flatlands and lower hills. The city and Bayview also fill with gam-

bling halls, speakeasies, and prostitution. Development proceeds in Kensington as well. Stege scurries to build sewers to accommodate development and creates assessment districts to finance the improvements.

1923

District reorganizes under California Sanitary District Act of 1923, which sets new rules and procedures.

1929

Major improvements to system. The two original outfalls are replaced and lengthened to carry "sewerage out farther into the Bay and to a place where sanitary conditions are more favorable."

1930

Stege's main is extended to Point Isabel, which now serves as the district's outfall into the Bay.

1931

Stege begins serving a small portion of Albany under contract, an arrangement that ends after World War II when Albany hooks into EBMUD'S system

1932, October

Stege resolution 27 approves sewer service to the El Cerrito Kennel Club, a dog racing track that becomes the biggest attraction in town until being shut down by state attorney general Earl Warren seven years later.

1935

Stege requires that barns and stables be clean and well ventilated, and



One of the 28 historic-cultural pavers installed by the City of El Cerrito on San Pablo Avenue honors the first meeting of the Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors in May, 1913. The meeting took place at what was called Stege Junction, the corner of San Pablo and Potrero.

have gutters that connect to sanitary sewers.

1937

Stege moves its office to El Cerrito City Hall.

1938

Alfred Baxter first elected to Stege Board; will serve on board and as district manager until 1984.

1939

Stege installing sewers in hillside tracts, including Mira Vista, Arlington Estates and Richmond Junction Heights. Federal WPA funding helps.

1939, 1940

Rainstorms send storm water into sewers and sewage streets throughout the district. A “city wide mass meeting” is held and a “flood survey committee” formed.

1941

The Hyde report, a regional study sponsored by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, calls for treatment of sewage before dumping into San Francisco Bay.

1942, December

Stege approves plans to serve war worker trailer camp on Fairmount Avenue, site of the former dog track.

1943

Stege builds Meeker Interceptor Sewer in Richmond to handle sewage for war worker housing.

1944

EBMUD, whose job was providing water, takes on sewage treatment too by forming Special District No. 1. Goal is to build a regional treatment plant.

1946-1947

Stege considers options for treating its sewage before releasing it into the bay: consolidating with other agencies, building its own plant, or sending its effluent to EBMUD. The EBMUD plan is deemed best.

1946

Stege plans major improvements to its system because of population growth during World War II and anticipated growth.

1947

State public health officials forbid raw sewage discharges into San Francisco Bay, a ruling that had been expected since the start of World War II.

1947, 1948

EBMUD rejects Stege’s request to join Special District No. 1 because of finances and timing. A second request that EBMUD serve both El Cerrito and Richmond as Special District No. 2 is also rejected.

1948

Stege buys a site on Point Isabel to build a wastewater treatment plant.

1948

Congress passes the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 to provide for regulation and cleanup in “navigable waters.”

1955

Primary treatment plant at Point Isabel completed.

1957

Baxter resigns from board to take job as district manager-secretary.

1959

Stege builds its own office and yard in the former Hutchinson quarry. Its architect U.S. Barbachano soon joins Stege board.

1960s

Significant improvements to system, including pumping station and larger mains.

1962

Stege declines to provide service to a proposed commercial and residential development in Wildcat Canyon east of Kensington. Area later becomes regional park.

1965, Jan. 23

William Huber dies at age 92.

1966-1967

Stege plans to provide secondary treatment at its Point Isabel plant.

1969

Stege and EBMUD reach agreement on adding Stege to Special District

No. 1, which means Stege will no longer treat its waste and will not need to reconstruct its plant.

1970

Stege joins Special District No. 1.

1972

Stege system connects to EBMUD's shoreline interceptor service; its sewage is now treated by EBMUD's Bay Bridge plant and the Point Isabel plant operates as a wet weather facility only.

1975, November

Jean Siri is elected to Stege board vowing to dissolve the district, arguing that it was no longer needed.

1976, November

Stege board votes unanimously to dissolve as an independent and merge with EBMUD.

1977, 1978

When EBMUD refuses to absorb the district, Stege and El Cerrito reach agreement to merge.

1979, June 5

Kensington voters kill the Stege-El Cerrito merger at the ballot box, turning out in greater numbers than voters in El Cerrito and consistently voting no.

1980

Stege joins with EBMUD and six East Bay cities on a regional Infiltration and Inflow study on preventing storm water from flooding sewer systems and polluting the bay.

1981

Stege eliminates most of its staff, stops performing its own maintenance, and contracts with West Contra Costa Sanitary District for services.

1982

After state Proposition 13 cuts the ability to raise funds through property taxes, Stege institutes sewer user charges.

1985

Larry Rugaard hired as general manager.

1985

Stege ends its contract with West Contra Costa Sanitary in a disagreement over its cost; rehires a staff.

1985

Start of comprehensive sewer improvement program to carry out recommendations of the Infiltration and Inflow study.

1987, August 15

Al Baxter dies at age 77.

1988

Stege celebrated its 75th anniversary.

1989

Stege named "collection system of the year" by the California Water Pollution Association for its success in preventing infiltration and inflow.

1994

Dwight Merrill seeks a seat on the Stege board, producing the first contested election in 17 years. The in-

cumbents win, but when an opening comes up later, Merrill is appointed.

1990s

Stege develops an innovative system for preventive maintenance using computers, robotic cameras, and geographic information systems.

2000

Doug Humphrey becomes Stege's general manager. He improves operations and greatly reduces overflows.

2005

Stege, along with EBMUD and the other six Special District No 1. agencies, are informed by the EPA that existing treatment plants no longer meet federal requirements. Studies commence to find a solution.

2010

Stege opens a new office and an improved yard on a better site at the former quarry.

2011

Rex Delizo, an engineer with the district since 1987, becomes general manager.

2012

The Stege Sanitary District receives the 2012 Collection System of the Year Award (0-249 Miles) from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) San Francisco Bay Section

2013

Stege, the oldest existing sanitary district in the county, celebrates its centenary.