



THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Summer 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President

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Director

Paul Gilbert-Snyder
Director

Dwight Merrill
Director

DISTRICT MANAGER/ ENGINEER

Rex Delizo, P.E.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Please Don't Clog the Sewers

Wastewater collection and sewer system maintenance is vital to the health and well-being of our community, especially in the challenging times we now face. While local, state, and federal response to the viral pandemic continues to evolve, the District remains committed to providing these critical services without interruption.

But we need your help.

If you are among the many who are running low on toilet paper, you may be tempted to flush other paper products or wipes. Please don't. Flushing anything other than pee, poo, or toilet paper can cause a sewer blockage, either in the sewer main or in your home plumbing. Toilet paper is designed to dissolve in water; "flushable" personal hygiene wipes will not.

Unlike conventional toilet paper, the wipes do not break down in the water. After being flushed, they clump into tangled masses that can clog a home's internal plumbing and the lateral that connects to the District's sewer main. A clogged lateral is messy and expensive to correct. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of clearing their laterals.

Clogs that reach the District's sewer main can cause wastewater to overflow out of manholes into streets, nearby storm drains and creeks, and into homes without backflow prevention devices. Such overflows threaten the health and safety of the community and the environment.

Even tissues will not dissolve and can cause problems. If you are out of toilet paper, please seal whatever other product you are using in a plastic bag after use and dispose of the bag in the trash.

If you experience a sewer backup, or see water coming out of a sewer manhole, call (510) 524-4667 right away. The District's emergency crew are available 24/7. 

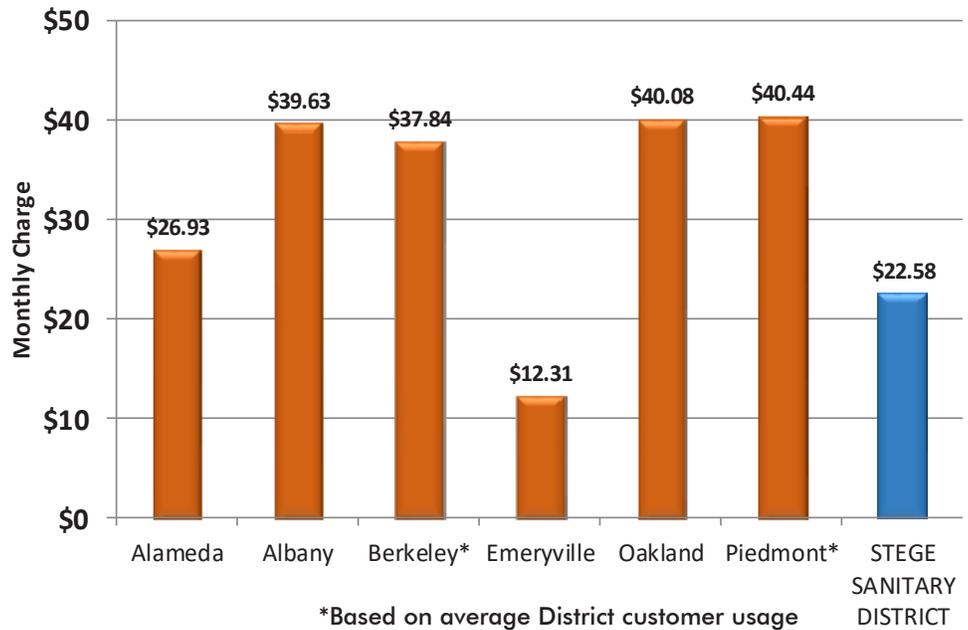


Stege Rates Are Also Among the Lowest in the Bay Area

For over 100 years, Stege Sanitary District has protected public health and the environment through planning and operation of a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection system. And it continues to do so with one of the lowest rates in the Bay Area.

On June 27, 2019 the Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors voted to raise sewer service rates to fund operating and capital improvement expenses while maintaining sufficient emergency reserve funds. The increase, the first one in three years, is designed to be phased in over five years. 

Monthly Service Rate Comparison



Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget

REVENUE

Sewer Operation Fund

Non Operating Income:	
Interest	70,000
Miscellaneous	21,000
Operating Income:	
Permit & Inspection Fees	15,000
Sewer Service Charges	2,789,000
Contracted Services	30,000
Subtotal	2,925,000

Capital Fund

Non-Operating Income:	
Interest	15,000
Operating Income:	
Property Tax	400,000
Capital Service Charges	2,901,000
Connection Fees	150,000
San Pablo Ave. Impact Fee	250,000
Subtotal	3,716,000

TOTAL REVENUE 6,641,000

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses:

Maintenance/Engineering	2,110,576
Pump Stations	16,460
Contracted Repairs	66,000
General & Administration	870,675

Subtotal Operating Expenses 3,063,711

Capital Expenses

Capital Equipment	314,000
Debt Repayment -SRF Loan	148,200
Sewer Rehabilitation	4,977,000

Subtotal Capital Expenses 5,439,200

Other Expenses

Transfer from Capital Fund	-
Retiree Medical Fund	-

TOTAL EXPENSES 8,502,911

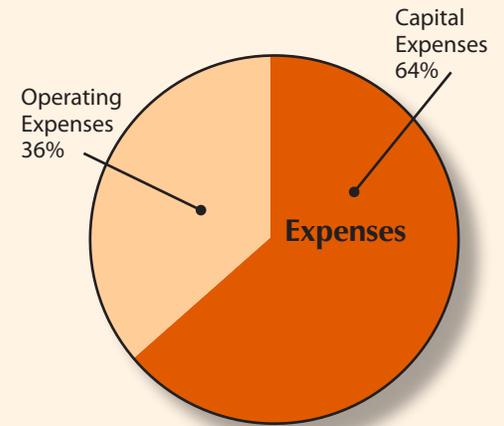
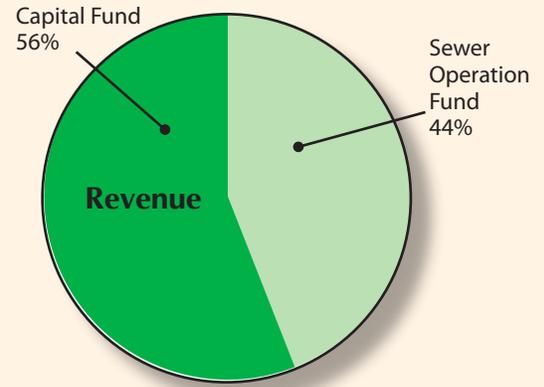
Transfer to/(from) Reserves

Revenue	6,641,000
Expenses	(8,502,911)

Subtotal (1,861,911)

TRANSFER

TO/(FROM) RESERVES (1,861,911)



The District adheres to an investment policy for reserve funds that complies with state statutes and stipulates safety, liquidity, and yields as the order of investment objectives. All currently invested funds are with the State Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

Project Updates



Force Main Replacement

A force main is a sewer main that carries wastewater out of a pump station under pressure. The District maintains two force mains, one on Burlingame Avenue in the Richmond Annex and one on Canon Drive in Kensington. Both pipes need to be replaced.

Burlingame Avenue in Richmond Annex

In 2018, the District started developing plans to install a new force main next to the old one on Burlingame Avenue. Construction in the area is particularly difficult because other utilities are also located there. Using Ground Penetrating Radar, the District determined the exact placement of existing utilities and plans for the new force main are now complete and are ready to go out to bid.

Canon Drive in Kensington

Construction to replace the force main on Canon Drive is scheduled to begin this fall. Pipe replacement will be open-trench in the street, which means traffic in the area will be impacted. Residents who will be affected by the new construction can expect to be notified at least one month before construction begins. Door hangers will be placed 24-48 hours in advance of construction. **S**

San Pablo Avenue Improvement Plan

In 2014, the City of El Cerrito adopted an ambitious improvement plan for San Pablo Avenue. The level of new development proposed requires upgrading existing sewer lines to service the area. To pay for the necessary sewer upgrades, the District imposed a special impact fee for the San Pablo Improvement Area, which went into effect in January 2018. The impact fee is in addition to the fees required for new sewer connections. Existing District ratepayers will not see any increase in their sewer charges because of these improvements.

The first stage of the sewer upgrade is scheduled to begin this summer on the west side of San Pablo Avenue from Manila Avenue to Potrero Avenue. Businesses along San Pablo Avenue will be open, but parking along the corridor will be restricted. Construction will take place from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. **S**



Don't Forget



Sewer Problems? CALL US FIRST!

If you see water backing up into your home, **call Stege before you call a plumber.** That number is **(510) 524-4667**. It is answered

24/7 by a real person. The problem may be in your lateral, or it may be in the sewer main. If necessary, we will send a crew out to investigate. The inspection is free and we try to respond within one hour. **S**

Online Newsletter

Keep up to date with what is happening in your sewer service district. Sign up for the Stege online newsletter by going to the District website, steges.com, or by sending your email address to newsletter@steges.com. **S**



Backflow Prevention Device

If your lateral is not far enough above the rim of the sewer manhole and there is extraordinarily high volume of water in the main, or if there is a blockage downstream that forces sewage upstream, sewage can come back out of the drains in your house.

You can prevent this from happening by installing a backflow prevention system. To find out if you need a backflow prevention device, call (510) 524-4668 for a free inspection. **S**

Lateral Requirement

Under the Regional Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) Program, if you are buying or selling a property, building or remodeling in excess of \$100,000, or changing the size of your water meter, you must obtain a certificate from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) certifying that all of your PSLs are leak-free. Visit eastbaypsl.com for more information. **S**



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Spotlight on Service

Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors

The Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors is a policy-making body for the Stege Sanitary District, an independent Special District of the State of California. The District provides sewer services to El Cerrito, Kensington and a portion of the City of Richmond known as the Richmond Annex.

The Board is comprised of five board members elected at large. The board members serve staggered four year terms with elections being held in even-numbered years. Two terms are up for election in 2020 and the remaining three terms are up for election in 2022.

The Board holds its general meetings, usually twice a month, on a Thursday at 7:00 pm to conduct the business of the District. The District Board may also, from time to time, call special meetings to act on timely

issues. Board members must be present at all general and special District meetings unless they can show good cause for their absence.

Other Board obligations include:

- Completion of a statement of economic interest disclosure (Form 700).
- Mandatory AB 1234 ethics training.
- Mandatory AB 1825 harassment prevention training.

In addition to these requirements, there is an expectation that District Board members also participate in the following:

- Community outreach events such as a District booth at the City of El Cerrito Fourth of July fair.
- Continuing professional education programs such as confer-

ences/meetings of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the California Special Districts Association, and other local or state organizations.

- Governance Training as required to maintain Special District Leadership Foundation's District of Distinction Accreditation.

A Director of the Stege Sanitary District receives \$222.31 per meeting day of service. Directors are also reimbursed for expenses incurred when participating in approved training and District business. The District provides no healthcare, leave, pension, or other benefits to Directors.

The public is invited to attend Board meetings. Instructions on how to attend remotely are given on the Board agenda, which is posted on stegesan.org. 