

# PIPELINE



PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ANNUAL RATE SETTING will be held on THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015, at 7 P.M. in the District's Board Room. A separate notice will be mailed to all property owners.

## From the GM

# Our Commitment to You: Continuous Improvement, Exceptional Service



**H**ere at Central San, we know you rely on us to provide a basic service that is critical not only to your quality of life, but also to the protection of public health and our environment. The wastewater business is very complex, highly regulated, and capital-intensive. It is the type of business which requires not only a skilled workforce, but also a long-term strategic approach.

To meet our current and future challenges, our staff is continuously working to improve our business practices. As part of that ongoing effort, we are developing a solid business template to help us maintain the high level of service you deserve. We believe, from a strategic standpoint, a successful utility should periodically conduct a Cost of Service Study and Staffing Needs Assessment, and update its Infrastructure Master Plan, Strategic Business Plan, and Asset Management Program.

► **Cost of Service Study:** The purpose of this study is to analyze the costs we incur in providing services to our customers. It makes sure that the revenues recovered are appropriately assessed and cover all financial obligations; that our customers are being fairly charged based on the services they receive; and that the revenues we recover from residential, multifamily, commercial and industrial customers are consistent with Proposition 218 requirements. It is important that we maintain an optimal operation, but we must also make sure that we recover the revenues necessary to provide the services our customers deserve and expect.

► **Staffing Needs Assessment:** The purpose of this recently completed assessment is to make sure the District's staffing levels are optimal based on the level of service our customers expect, the size and complexity of the system, and our constant focus on remaining efficient and effective in running the business. We engaged the services of a consulting firm to conduct an in-depth study of what we do and how we do it, and then determine whether our staffing level and organizational structure is appropriate. Their conclusion is that we are staffed at the right level, but that some minor adjustments to the organizational structure will enhance our effectiveness and long-term efficiencies.

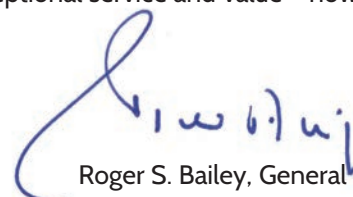
We are currently implementing those recommended adjustments.

► **Strategic Business Plan.** This is a two-year strategic plan that establishes policy direction for the District. It identifies six goals with key performance indicators that provide a roadmap for achieving increased effectiveness and efficiencies throughout the operations. It will enable us to continue our high level of service, be an industry leader in providing value to customers, and will have a positive impact throughout our service area for many years to come. You can view the plan on our website, [www.centrialsan.org](http://www.centrialsan.org), by going to the About Us tab and choosing Strategic Plan.

► **Infrastructure Master Plan.** We are in the process of creating a comprehensive master plan for our collection system and treatment plant, both of which have complex and aging infrastructures that require ongoing capital investments. To accomplish our mission, those systems must perform optimally every day in a very highly regulated environment. Our master plan will help us to identify and implement the most cost-efficient methods for operating and maintaining our systems, maintaining compliance with all applicable regulations, and protecting public health and the environment.

*Our goal with these and other initiatives is to provide you with the highest quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective ways possible, while adhering to best business practices, maintaining full regulatory compliance, and being good stewards of our environment.*

We have a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead of us. By planning for the future, making good financial decisions, implementing new technologies and processes, and maintaining a highly skilled and dedicated workforce, we will remain a world-class organization that provides our customers with exceptional service and value – now and well into the future.

  
Roger S. Bailey, General Manager

# How Using Pesticides in Your Garden Can Pollute Suisun Bay

*“What harm can a little spraying in my garden do? It’s not like I’m pouring pesticides into the bay... right?”*

**P**esticides you use around your home and garden can contaminate our creeks, rivers, and Suisun Bay. How? By traveling through storm drains and sewers.

- Runoff from rain and irrigation of gardens and lawns flows down streets and into storm drains, taking pesticide residue and other pollutants along with it. In our area, the water in storm drains flows directly (untreated) into creeks, rivers, and the bay.
- When people who have used pesticides wash themselves and the clothes they wore while applying them, or rinse out sprayers in a sink, pesticide residues go down household drains into sewers and to our wastewater treatment plant. That wastewater goes through a thorough treatment and disinfection process before being released into Suisun Bay. But because those processes cannot completely remove toxic chemicals from the water, pesticide residues reach the bay.



## How to Keep Pesticides Out of the Bay

- ▶ Use alternatives to pesticides. Most pest problems can be solved without pesticides.
- ▶ If you must use pesticides, follow all instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Never pour them down a drain!
- ▶ Do not use pesticides outdoors before watering or when rain is forecast.
- ▶ Do not overwater lawns or gardens.
- ▶ Bring unwanted pesticides to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for safe disposal.
- ▶ Follow tips on less-toxic pest control and gardening methods available on website, [www.centalsan.org](http://www.centalsan.org) (click on “Healthy Garden Guide” in the lower left of the homepage).



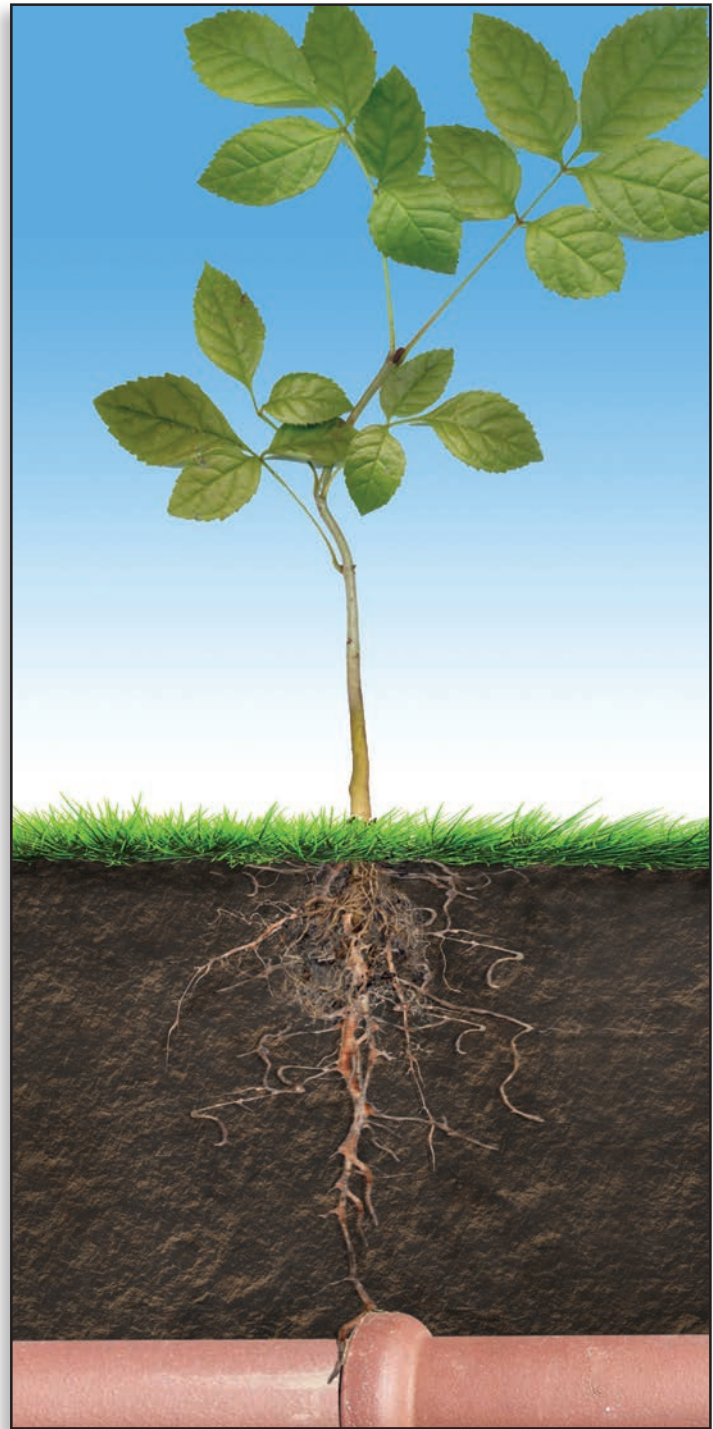
# An Innocent Tree Root? Or the Beginning of a Plumbing Nightmare?

Tree roots are the leading cause of sewer clogs and overflows.

**H**air-thin roots infiltrate sewer pipes through tiny cracks, and then thrive on the moisture and nutrients inside. It doesn't take long for them to spread out and begin snagging materials like grease, wipes, and other items people put down drains and toilets. Soon the pipe can become completely blocked, and even break apart as the roots and blockage continue to grow.

## How to Prevent Root Problems In Your Pipe

- ▶ Find out where your sewer pipes are. Companies that do this are online/in the phone book as "Pipe & Leak Locating Services."
- ▶ Don't plant trees or shrubs above or near the sewer pipes (or install root barriers when planting).
- ▶ Maintain your house side sewer/lateral. If there are trees near the pipe, have it inspected/cleaned by a professional plumbing service every other year.
- ▶ If you have continuing root problems, consider removing the offending tree or shrub.
- ▶ Make sure an Overflow Protection Device is installed on your sewer pipe's cleanout (see article on page 9).



## Treatment Plant Tours

**W**e offer free tours for groups of five or more people. Children must be grade 6 or above. Come see how Central San's award-winning treatment plant makes wastewater safe for the environment. Call Kit Ohlman at (925) 229-7329 for more information.

# Free Recycled Water for Residential Use



Central San is offering free recycled water to its residential customers.

The recycled water can be used to hand-water lawns, gardens and landscaping to help save drinking water supplies.

*It is not safe for drinking, and should not be allowed to run off into storm drains.*

*Eligible communities include Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and other Central County unincorporated areas without our service area.*

## How to Get Recycled Water

- ▶ The fill station is at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF), 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez. It is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- ▶ Prior to using the station for the first time, you'll need to fill out a Residential Recycled Water Use Application/Agreement and receive training on the proper use of recycled water. You can download a blank form from [www.centralsan.org/recycledwater](http://www centralsan.org/recycledwater) or obtain one at the HHWCF. Please complete the form before your first visit.
- ▶ Bring your own containers, which must be a minimum size of one gallon, have water-tight lids, and be secured for safe transport.
- ▶ The maximum fill per trip is 300 gallons. There is no limit on number of trips.

**Please Note: Water is heavy! Ten gallons weigh more than 80 pounds; 100 gallons weigh more than 800 pounds. When driving vehicles with such heavy loads, expect less stability and be sure to allow for additional stopping distance.**

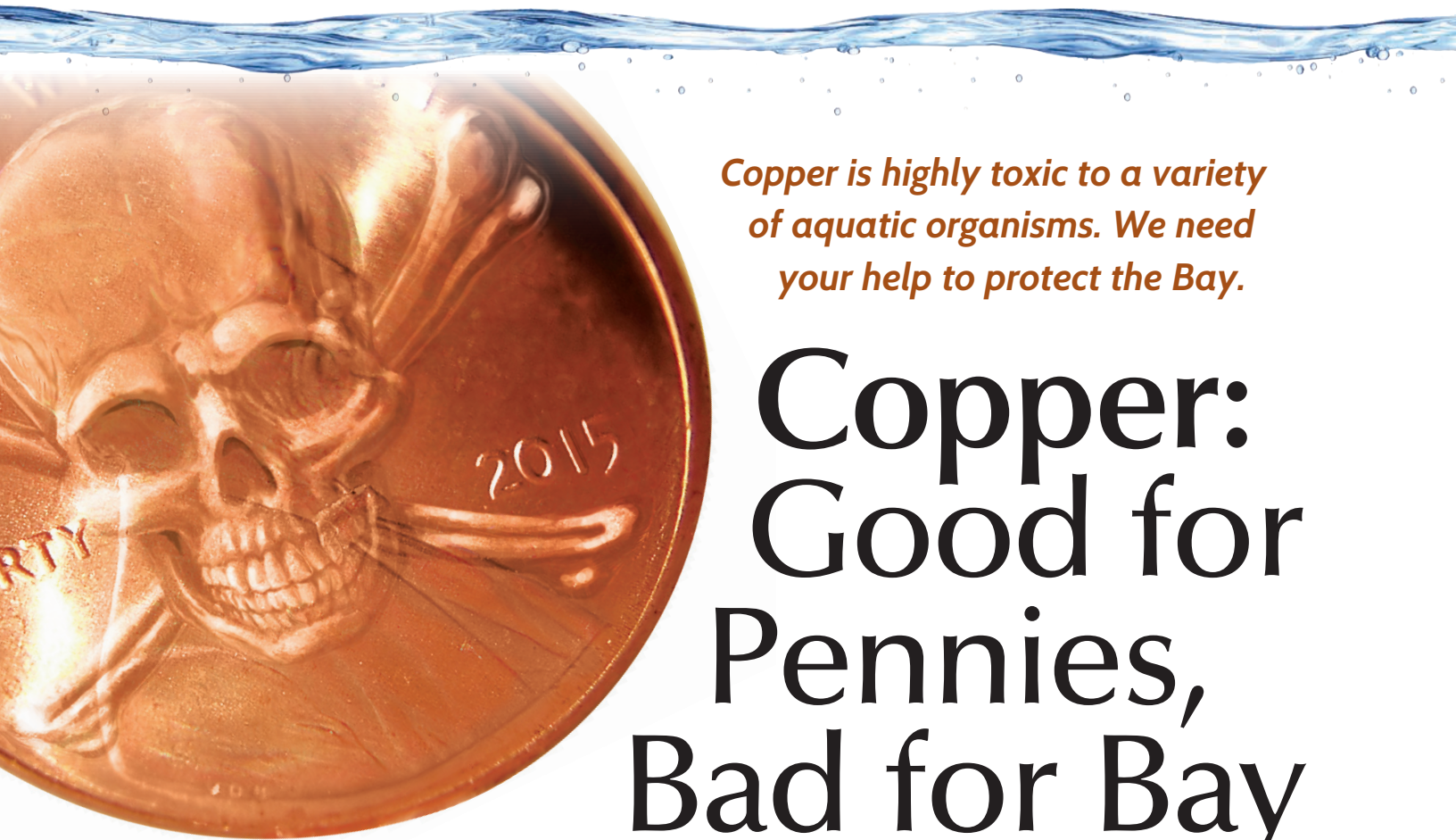
If you have any questions, please call 1-800-646-1431.

## Recycled Water Available for Truck Filling

Licensed contractors can fill water trucks with Central San's recycled water for uses such as dust control, soil compaction, landscape irrigation and sewer flushing. The recycled water is available from our purple recycled water hydrants on Willow Way in Concord and on Marsh Drive in unincorporated north Concord.

Prior to using a recycled water hydrant, contractors must obtain a CCCSD-issued recycled water meter (requiring a one-time refundable deposit of \$750) and Recycled Water Use Permit. Each hydrant customer must assign a recycled water site supervisor who will receive training by our staff prior to receiving the meter and permit.

Additional details, including our current recycled water rates, are available at [www.centralsan.org/recycledwater](http://www.centralsan.org/recycledwater). If you have questions, please contact Melody LaBella at (925) 229-7370 or [mlabella@centralsan.org](mailto:mlabella@centralsan.org).



*Copper is highly toxic to a variety of aquatic organisms. We need your help to protect the Bay.*

# Copper: Good for Pennies, Bad for Bay

**P**ools contain more than just water. Other “ingredients” can include sunscreen residue, chlorine, bromine, pH-adjusting acids and alkalines, and algae-controlling chemicals.

That’s why water drained from pools (and spas, ponds and fountains) should go into the sewer system which flows to the treatment plant, and never into a storm drain which flows directly to creeks and Suisun Bay.

Draining the water into the sewer requires a permit, but it’s free. Call (925) 229-7288 or go to [www.centrsan.org/sourcecontrol](http://www.centrsan.org/sourcecontrol) and click on Special Discharge Permit for more information.

## Copper is Toxic to Aquatic Life

Copper is used in many products designed to kill algae in pools, spas, ponds and fountains. Humans can tolerate small amounts of copper (it’s actually an essential nutrient). But copper (especially copper sulfate) is highly toxic to a variety of aquatic organisms.

We are able to remove about 90% of the copper that enters our wastewater treatment plant, but the remaining portion does reach Suisun Bay. That’s why we need your help.

## To Reduce Copper Pollution of the Bay

- ▶ Regularly clean your pool, spa or fountain, and maintain proper filtration and circulation levels.
- ▶ Control algae with copper-free chemicals such as chlorine, organic polymers, sodium bromide or hypochlorite-containing shock treatments.

Copper is also used in the brake linings of many cars. If you wash your car at home, you could be washing copper-contaminated brake dust (and other pollutants) into the storm drain and the Bay. *Wash your car at a commercial car wash, instead, where the water is pretreated and sent to the wastewater treatment plant.*



A fact sheet with more information about maintaining pools, spas and fountains is on our website:  
[www.centrsan.org/documents/Pools\\_Spas\\_and\\_Fountains.pdf](http://www.centrsan.org/documents/Pools_Spas_and_Fountains.pdf)

# Do You Have A Leaking Toilet?

## It Could Be Wasting Thousands of Gallons of Water

**W**e're experiencing an extreme drought and need to conserve as much water as possible. Have you checked your toilet for leaks lately?

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, one in every five household toilets leaks - and a leaking toilet can waste more than 100 gallons of water every day!

*Since the leaks are usually silent, here's a simple way to know if your toilet is leaking: put a few drops of food coloring or dye in the toilet tank. If the dye shows up in the unflushed toilet bowl after 15 minutes, the toilet is leaking.*



Leaking is usually caused by a worn-out or poorly fitting flapper valve in the tank. (This problem might occur more often if you're using in-tank cleaners that release bleach into the tank water; excessive chlorine can damage flapper valves over time.) A replacement flapper valve (available at any hardware store) is inexpensive and easy to install.

If replacing the flapper valve doesn't do the trick and you need to replace the entire toilet, look for a model with

"WaterSense" on the label. According to the EPA, replacing an older, inefficient toilet with a new WaterSense model could save up to 13,000 gallons of water per year!

For more information on how to detect and repair common household water leaks, please visit this link on the EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/fixleak.html](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/fixleak.html)



## Please Don't Treat Your Toilet Like a Trash Can

**I**t may be convenient to dispose of used baby wipes, paper towels, condoms, and feminine hygiene products by flushing them down the toilet. But those and other items (even if labeled as "flushable") can clog sewer pipes, damage pumps and other treatment plant equipment, and contribute to water pollution. Please flush only human waste and toilet paper. Put everything else in a real trash can.

# It Could Happen to You



*Just as a circuit breaker protects your home's wiring and appliances from electrical overloads, an OPD can protect your home from sewer overflows like this.*

If you don't have one of these...



you might have one of these...



which could cost you lots of these...



*The average cost of cleaning up an overflow is \$25,000.*

"I never thought something like this would happen to me," said a frustrated homeowner as she looked at her sewage-soaked carpet. "I'm always careful about what I flush and put down the drain."

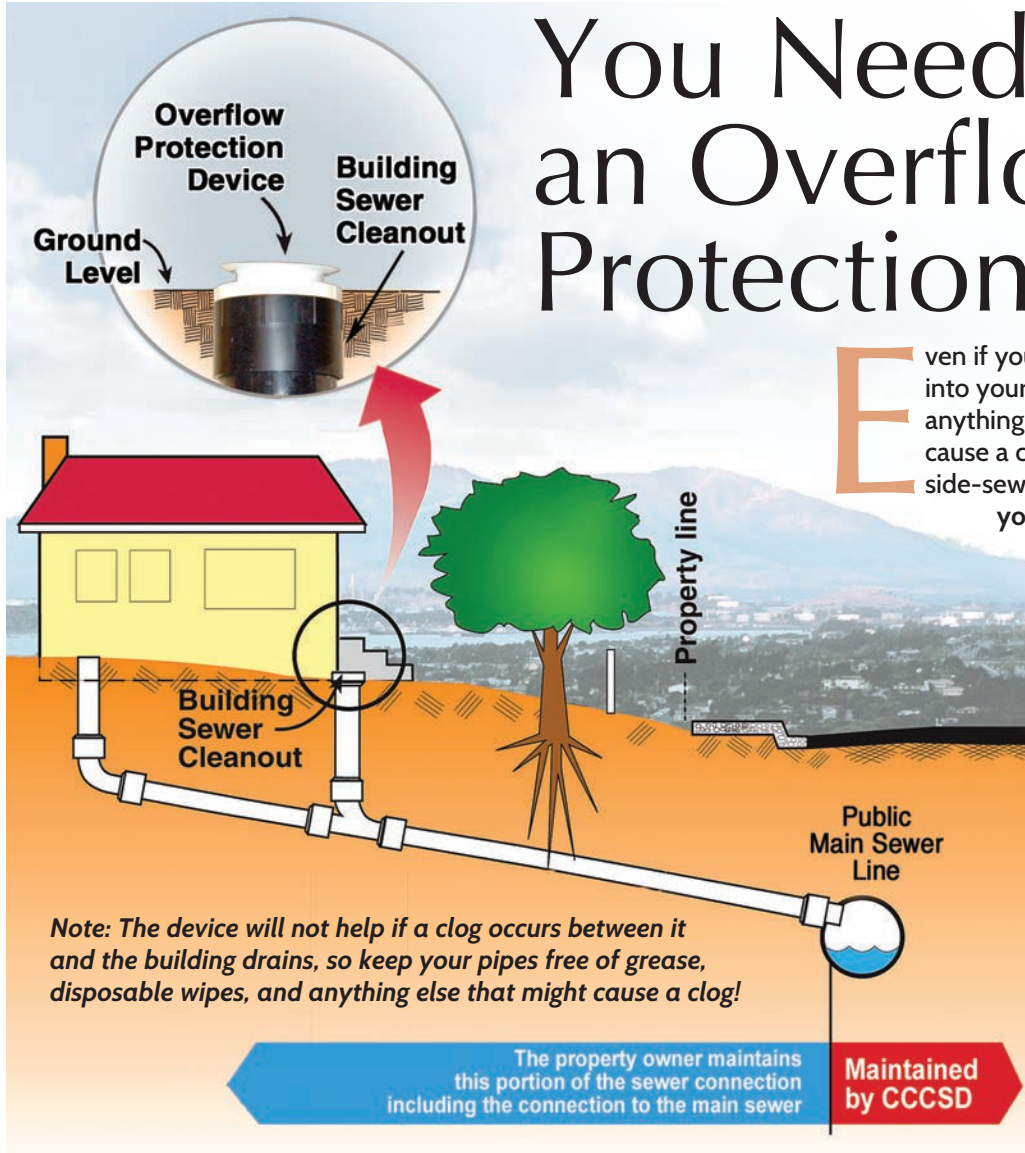
But in this case, that hadn't been enough. Tree roots had infiltrated her side-sewer/lateral, and over time, grown large enough to clog the pipe. Sewage from her home backed up in the pipe, overflowed from a shower drain, spilled onto the bathroom floor and into the carpeted hallway. The resulting mess wasn't pretty. Neither was the bill for cleaning it up and replacing the carpet.

Many homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage caused by sewer overflows.

This situation could have been prevented. If there had been an Overflow Protection Device (OPD) installed on this homeowner's side-sewer cleanout, the sewage backing up in the pipe would have spilled into the yard rather than the home. An outside overflow is less awful than an inside overflow!



# You Need an Overflow Protection Device



Even if you have zero risk of roots getting into your pipe; even if you never put anything down a drain or toilet that can cause a clog; even if you just had your side-sewer inspected and cleaned - you need an OPD.

Why? Because it can protect your property from situations beyond your control.

While most overflows are caused by clogs in private side-sewers/laterals (which are the property owner's responsibility), they can also occur in the public sewer main (Central San's responsibility). Installing an OPD is the best way to prevent sewage from backing up into your home or business, regardless of whether the problem is in the public sewer main or a private lateral.

## OPDs Are Required by Ordinance

Even though sewer overflows are rare, they can be damaging and create a health risk. That's why all homes and businesses in the Central San service area are required by ordinance to have an OPD.

You can read the ordinance here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/OPD-ORD>

The device must be installed according to District specifications. Because proper elevation and location are critical for the OPD to function properly, we recommend that it be installed by a licensed plumbing contractor.

If installation of an OPD is not practical, a property owner may apply for an exception from the requirement.

To encourage compliance with the ordinance, permit and inspection fees for repair or replacement of side sewers shall not apply to the installation of OPDs.

Once the OPD is installed, it must be kept accessible and clear of obstructions such as dirt, plants, concrete, or anything else that might interfere with its operation. If you hire a gardener or landscaper, make sure they know this.

***If there's an overflow and an OPD is not installed or maintained in accordance with the ordinance, the property owner may be responsible for resulting damages.***

If you do not have an OPD, have one installed as soon as possible to protect your most important investment and give yourself peace of mind. They are available in three different models and sold by plumbing supply stores. We can help you determine the best solution for your home or business.

For more information, please call our Permit Counter staff at (925) 229-7371.

# Keep Your Butts Out of the Bay

**C**igarette butts are the most common item of trash collected during beach clean-up events. They also comprise an estimated 30-50% of all trash collected from roads and streets. But they're more than just a litter problem.

**When you throw cigarette butts on the ground or flush them down your toilet, you're polluting the Bay.**

When butts are dropped on sidewalks, parking lots, streets or into gutters, they are often swept down storm drains with rain or irrigation runoff. Our storm drains flow untreated into local creeks and the Bay.

When you flush butts down the toilet, they travel through sewers to the wastewater treatment plant. Treatment plants are designed to remove human biological wastes. They cannot remove all traces of toxic chemicals.

Yes, cigarette butts are loaded with toxic chemicals.

The purpose of a cigarette butt (filter) is to trap the toxic chemicals created in the smoke when the cigarette burns. Nicotine is the chemical most people associate with cigarettes, but that's only one of the toxins captured by the filter. "Tar" refers to more than 3,500 chemical particles (including arsenic, vinyl chloride, benzene, hydrogen cyanide, mercury and lead) generated by a burning cigarette.

Those toxic chemicals, many of which are especially lethal to aquatic life, leach out of the butts when exposed to water.

But that's not the only problem with cigarette butts. Most are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic. Plastic is not biodegradable, but it does eventually break down into small pieces. **Fish and birds mistake these pieces for food and eat them, often with fatal consequences and long-lasting damage to the ecosystem.**

This is one type of pollution that is easily preventable.

If you smoke, please dispose of your butts properly. Don't throw them on the ground. Don't flush them.

Otherwise, that little flick of your wrist can do serious harm to our water environment.



# Protect Water Quality: *DO NOT* Flush Your Drugs!

**P**lease do not flush medications down the toilet. They often contain chemicals that cannot be completely removed by our treatment process and could pollute the Bay. Protect your family, your community, and the environment by bringing unwanted medications to a free drop-off site for safe disposal:

**Alamo Sheriff's Substation**  
150 Alamo Plaza, Suite C

**Clayton Police Dept.**  
6000 Heritage Trail

**Concord Police Dept.**  
1350 Galindo St.

**Danville Police Dept.**  
510 La Gonda Way

**Lafayette Police Dept.**  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,  
Suite 130

**Martinez:**

- **Police Dept.**  
525 Henrietta St.
- **Sheriff's Field Ops Bldg.**  
1980 Muir Rd.

**Martinez (cont'd.):**

- **Contra Costa Med. Center Sheriff's Substation**  
2500 Alhambra Ave.

**Moraga Police Dept.**  
329 Rheem Blvd.

**Orinda Police Dept.**  
22 Orinda Way

**Pleasant Hill Police Dept.**  
330 Civic Dr.

**San Ramon Police Dept.**  
2401 Crow Canyon Rd.

**Walnut Creek City Hall**  
1666 North Main St.

Bring  
unwanted  
pet meds &  
vitamins,  
too!

To ensure privacy, transfer prescribed pills to a sealable plastic bag before depositing them. Leave liquids in original bottles (cross out personal information) and seal within a plastic bag to prevent spills.

***Do not put sharps or anything other than medications in the container!***

For more information, visit [www.centernalsan.org/hhw](http://www.centernalsan.org/hhw) or call 1-800-646-1431.

**T**ogether, these 13 sites collect and safely dispose of about 12,000 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals each year; approximately 61,000 pounds since the program began in 2009!



# What Can You Bring to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility?

**D**espite increased awareness within our communities, chemicals are still reaching our waterways when people improperly dispose of common household hazardous wastes (such as paint) through sewers and landfills. You can help by using up the products, giving leftovers to someone else to use, or bringing them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for reuse, recycling, or safe disposal. Items accepted at the facility include:

## Household products

- Batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs & lights (CFLs)
- Thermostat switches
- Grouts/caulking
- Pool chemicals
- Bleach
- Cleansers & polishes

## Personal care products

- Mercury fever thermometers
- Fingernail polish & remover
- Hair care products
- Perfumes & colognes

## Other

- Cooking oil/grease (as from a turkey fryer)
- Propane tanks (5 gallon or less)

## Automotive products

- Motor oil
- Gasoline
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Transmission fluid
- Solvents
- Car batteries

## Paint and paint-related products

- Latex & oil-based paints
- Wood stain & varnishes
- Paint remover/paint thinner & solvents

## Garden and pest-control products

- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Fertilizers

## We do NOT accept the following:

- Medical wastes (including sharps, syringes, needles, lancets, etc.)
- Electronic waste (computers, TVs, cell phones, etc.)
- Explosives (ammunition, fireworks, etc.)
- Unlabeled or unknown compressed gas cylinders (propane is accepted)
- Wastes contaminated with PCBs (fluorescent light ballasts are accepted)
- Treated wood wastes

State regulations limit the transportation of hazardous waste to 15 gallons or 125 pounds per vehicle per visit. Individual containers are limited to 5-gallon capacity.

There is no drop-off fee and no appointment necessary for residents of central Contra Costa County. Small businesses require an appointment and are charged a nominal fee.

(Cont'd. on next page)

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392

### HOURS

**Residents:** Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
(Reuse Room closes at 3:30 p.m.)

**Businesses:** Monday - Saturday, by appointment only

**Holiday Closures:** May 25; July 4; Sept. 7; Nov. 11, 26, 27; Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.

**1-800-646-1431**



- From Hwy. 4 take the Solano Way exit.
- From I-680 take Hwy. 4 East to Solano Way exit.

### Eligible Communities

Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and unincorporated Central County areas.

(Cont'd. from Page 12)

### Check Our Reuse Room for Free Items

Our goal is to reuse and recycle as many of the items brought to the facility as possible. So when you visit, be sure to check out our Reuse Room. It's stocked with items brought in for disposal that are still in useable condition. They are free for the taking.

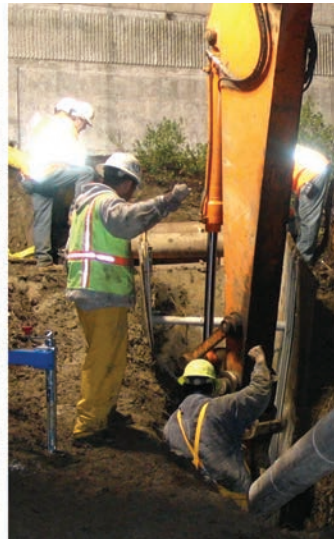
### Alternative Locations

If our facility in Martinez is too far, there are many places throughout the county that accept paints, batteries, and other Household Hazardous Wastes. They are too numerous to list here; please go to [www.centrsan.org/hhw](http://www.centrsan.org/hhw) and click on **Other Hazardous Waste Locations**.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.centrsan.org/hhw](http://www.centrsan.org/hhw) or call 1-800-646-1431.

## This Newsletter is Online

Would you like to read past issues, or share *Pipeline* newsletters with family or friends who do not receive them through the mail? All that's needed is Internet access; every issue since Fall 2005 is available on our website at this link: [www.centrsan.org/publications](http://www.centrsan.org/publications).



# Infrastructure Improvements

**T**he Central Contra Costa Sanitary District regularly maintains, repairs or replaces sewer lines and other elements of our 1,500-mile wastewater collection system to decrease the likelihood of failures and to ensure continuous, trouble-free service for our customers. Our projects may cause short-term inconveniences, but they provide long-term benefits for you and your neighbors. We appreciate your understanding. Here's a brief summary of our major ongoing construction projects:

**Danville, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, San Ramon:** The **Cathodic Protection Project, Phase 1**, is adding/modifying corrosion protection and testing systems on sewer lines and at pumping stations throughout the District. Expected completion: May 2015.

**Lafayette:** The **Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 9**, is renovating sewers in the St. Mary's Road and Moraga Blvd. areas. Expected completion: October 2015.

**Martinez:** The **Martinez Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 4**, is renovating sewers in the G Street and Brookside Drive areas. Expected completion: May 2016.

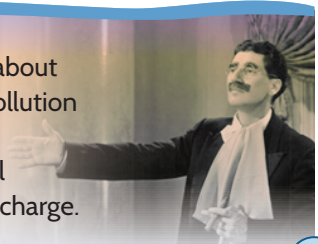
**ONLINE:**  
Detailed project maps are posted on our website, [www.centrsan.org](http://www.centrsan.org) (check the "Construction Zone" on the right of the home page).

**Pleasant Hill:** The Pleasant Hill-Grayson Creek Trunk Sewer Project, is renovating sewers in the area between Pleasant Hill Road, Mercury Way, and Ardith Drive. Expected completion: December 2016.

**For more info...**  
For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200 or [ccarp@centrsan.org](mailto:ccarp@centrsan.org), or visit [www.centrsan.org/construction](http://www.centrsan.org/construction).

## Need a Guest Speaker?

Would your group like to hear about Central San and our water pollution prevention efforts? Call Kit Ohlman at (925) 229-7329. We'll do our best to provide a speaker free of charge.



# Big Trucks? Be Careful!



**W**e have crews working in the streets every day, maintaining the public sewers to ensure continuous, trouble-free service for our customers. Sometimes those streets are narrow, curvy, and congested. We realize our big trucks take up a lot of room

and may cause short-term inconveniences. But please be aware that people are in the streets with those trucks. Slow down and be extra cautious when driving by. And maybe wave to our friendly crews (they love that). Thank you for your patience and helping to keep our employees safe!

## Join Us On Earth Day

**I**f you're planning to attend the John Muir Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 18, be sure to stop by our Central San exhibit and say hello. Our friendly staff will be there to share information about pollution prevention, Household Hazardous Waste disposal, and other environmental topics. The Festival is being held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez. See you there!



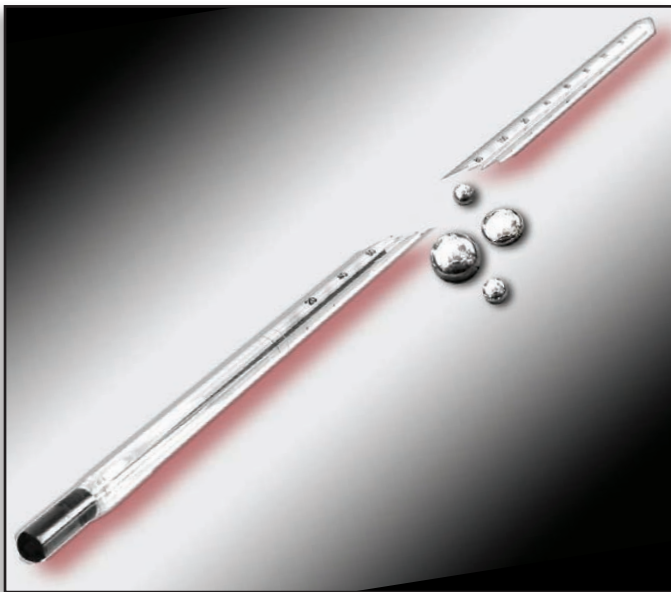
# Are Your Fever Thermometers Mercury-Free?

**M**ercury is toxic. An old-fashioned fever thermometer contains enough mercury to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water. If you drop and break a mercury thermometer in a sink and the mercury goes down the drain, it can contaminate wastewater that flows to Suisun Bay (the wastewater treatment process cannot remove all traces of mercury).

Although the sale of mercury fever thermometers is banned in California, some people still have them at home.

If you bring your mercury thermometer to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for safe disposal, we'll give you a free digital fever thermometer to take its place.

For more information, please call 1-800-646-1431.



## Grease is Gross!

**P**ouring grease down the drain is one of the worst things you can do to your home's plumbing and sewer pipe.

Some people think it "goes away" when they wash it down the drain with hot water. But grease quickly cools, hardens, and clings to the inside of the pipe. It forms a gross, sticky blob that grows over time. Eventually the entire pipe can become clogged.

Instead of dumping it down the drain, put cooled grease (and fatty food scraps and used cooking oil) into a disposable lidded container. Store it in the freezer to harden, and then put it in the trash.

Bring large quantities of grease and oil (such as from a turkey fryer) to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for recycling into biofuels.

## We're Giving You More for Less

If this issue of the *Pipeline* seems a bit heftier to you than previous issues, you're very perceptive! We've increased its size from 12 to 16 pages to give you even more helpful tips and information about how we all work together to protect

the environment. But we're also saving money. The cost of printing a 16-page publication is actually cheaper because the production process is easier and wastes less paper than for a 12-page one. And postage costs are the same. So we're able to give you more for less.

# ABOUT CCCSD

Our mission as a Special District is to protect public health and the environment. We do this by collecting and treating wastewater, providing recycled water, and promoting pollution prevention. Our treatment plant in Martinez collects, treats, and disinfects an average of 35.6 million gallons of wastewater every day. Some treated wastewater is recycled (treated further) for irrigation use on golf courses and parks; the rest is released into Suisun Bay. We also operate a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and sponsor several collection sites for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals.

## Where to Call...

|  |  |
|--|--|
| General information                            | (925) 228-9500 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a> |
| Sewer overflows                                | (925) 933-0955 or 933-0990   |
| Treatment Plant InfoLine (Report Odors)        | (925) 335-7703   |
| Household Hazardous Waste InfoLine             | (800) 646-1431 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a> |
| Sewer connection permits/Permit Counter        | (925) 229-7371   |
| To report illegal discharges into sewer system | (925) 229-7288 (during business hours)<br>(925) 229-7214 (after hours)       |
| Source Control                                 | (925) 229-7288   |
| Job Hotline                                    | (925) 229-7109 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a> |
| Student Education Programs                     | (925) 229-7310 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a> |
| Public InfoLine                                | (925) 335-7702 or <a href="http://www.centralsan.org">www.centralsan.org</a> |



CCCSD serves 471,000 customers within its 144-square-mile service area.

- Wastewater collection & treatment; Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal for 333,500 people.
- Wastewater treatment and HHW disposal for 136,000 people in Concord and Clayton by contract.
- HHW disposal only.
- CCCSD's headquarters, treatment plant, and HHW Collection Facility are located in Martinez.



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Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the CCCSD Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez.  
**Roger S. Bailey**, General Manager

**The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District PIPELINE**

Written and designed by CCCSD to communicate pollution prevention messages to the people and communities we serve

**Bonnie Lowe**, Editor, Writer  
**Charles Waltmire**, Graphic Designer

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