



THE ENDEAVOR

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Summer 2016

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

It shall be the mission of the Stege Sanitary District to plan and operate a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection and transfer system for the present and future customers of the District.

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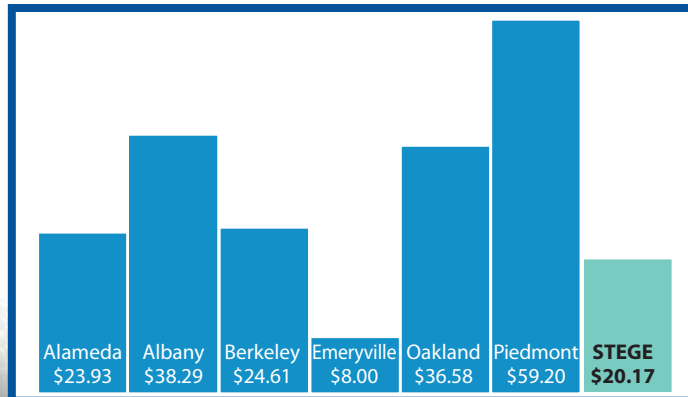


No Rate Increase for 2016


In 2014, the Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors approved a rate increase plan that was to be phased in over a period of five years. Under this plan, the annual residential sewer rate for the fiscal year 2016-2017 was to increase from \$242.00 to \$264.00. Instead, the annual residential sewer rate will remain at \$242.00 (\$20.17 a month). The non-residential rate will remain \$4.97 per 1000 gallons.

The District was able to maintain the current sewer service rate structure because of its strong financial position at the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The reserve fund target goal for that period was \$3.45 million. The actual balance was \$4.24 million, which was 123% of the target.

Monthly Sewer Service Charge Comparison



This surplus was due to a number of factors, including overall operating expenses being 10% lower than the previous year. In addition, cost to complete the required rehabilitation work decreased from \$221 to \$163 per foot of pipe.

Sewer service rates in the District remain among the lowest in the Bay Area. 



Operating expenses decreased by 10% in 2015.

Backflow Prevention Device

If your house lateral—the pipe that connects your home plumbing to the sewer main—is not far enough above the rim of the next upstream sewer manhole 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 manhole. The overflow device provides an

emergency escape path should wastewater back up in your lateral. BPDs must be installed outside the home so overflow will occur outside, not inside your home. They must be maintained so they are free from obstructions and move easily.

If you are unsure if you already have a backflow prevention device on your lateral or if you want to know if you need one, contact us at (510) 524-4668 (Monday through Thursday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm) to make an appointment for a free inspection. Installing a backflow prevention device requires a permit, which is available at the District's office at 7500 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. The cost is \$25.00. **S**



Cap-type cleanout



Mushroom-type backflow prevention device

Customer Service Survey

How are we doing?

The District strives to provide courteous, timely, and professional service. You can help us maintain our high

standards.

Every time a District employee responds to a request for service, you will receive a *Service Evaluation* form. This survey form is mailed with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The District uses the customer response survey to review and estab-

lish procedures to improve customer service and as a positive incentive to improve staff performance.

It is very important for us to know how you feel about the service you received. Next time you get a customer response survey, please take a moment to fill it out and return it. **S**

Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

REVENUE

Sewer Operation Fund

Non Operating Income:	
Interest	5,000
Miscellaneous	21,000
Operating Income:	
Permit & Inspection Fees	15,000
Sewer Service Charges	2,435,000
Contracted Services	140,000
Subtotal	2,616,000

Capital Fund

Non-Operating Income:	
Interest	5,000
Operating Income:	
Property Tax	339,000
Capital Service Charges	2,242,000
Connection Fees	150,000
Subtotal	2,736,000

TOTAL REVENUE 5,352,000

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses:

Maintenance/Engineering	1,665,410
Pump Stations	18,660
Contracted Repairs	59,000
General & Administration	682,120
Subtotal	2,425,190

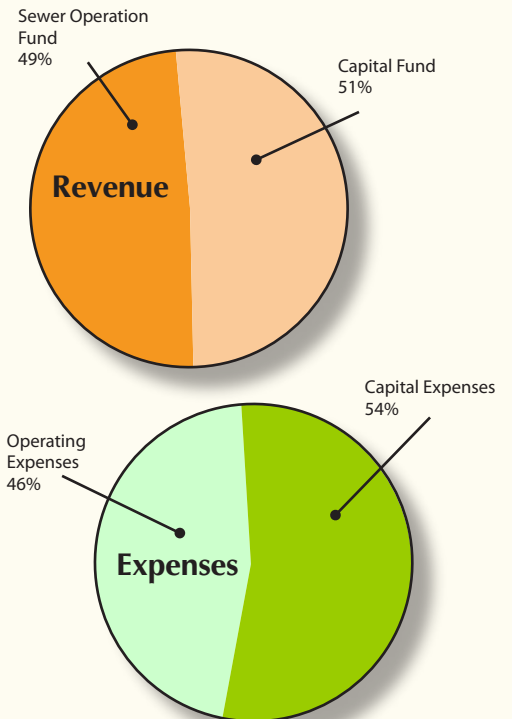
Capital Expenses

Capital Equipment	365,000
Debt Repayment -SRF Loan	148,200
Sewer Rehabilitation	2,311,000
Subtotal	2,824,200

TOTAL EXPENSES 5,249,390

Transfer to/(from) Reserves

Revenue	5,352,000
Expenses	(5,249,390)
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	102,610



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).

Wipes Not the Major Cause of Overflows for the First Time

In 2012, 2013, and 2014, disposable wipes that were flushed into the sewer system were the major cause of sewer main overflows. In 2015, while wipes continued to be a contributing factor in overflows, they were no longer the primary cause. Overall, sewer overflows from all causes decreased in both number and volume in 2015. The District's overflow average continues to remain well below state and regional averages.



Unlike toilet tissue, disposable wipes don't disintegrate in water. They retain their form and accumulate in sewer mains where they sink to the bottom and lodge against pipe joints, backing up the wastewater that flows behind them. Putting wipes in the trash where they belong helps prevent overflows that can endanger yards, creeks, storm drains, and San Francisco Bay.

The District thanks customers for recognizing the problem wipes pose and working to keep them out of the drains. **S**

District Wins Collection System of the Year Award

The Stege Sanitary District is the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), San Francisco Bay Section, 2015 Collection System of the Year Award winner for the Small System Category (250 miles and under). This award is presented to the collection system that has demonstrated the highest compliance and excellence in the program and procedures of wastewater collection based on regulatory compliance, special accomplishment, emergency response procedures, administrative procedures, maintenance, safety, and training programs. This is the third time the District has won this award in the last seven years. **S**

Left to Right: Phil Scott, CWEA President 2015-2016; Lani Good, CWEA Past President; Fred Bondoc, Stege Collection System Worker; Dennis Wright, Stege Maintenance Superintendent; Rex Delizo, Stege District Manager; Adam Clark, Stege Collection System Worker; Arvin Gonzales, Stege Engineering Technician



Helpful Reminders

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**

Plumbing Contractors

For a list of plumbing contractors registered to work on private laterals in the District, visit www.stegesan.org. Please note, Stege recommends getting at least three bids before starting work. **S**

Keep FOG out of Drains

Fats, Oils, or Grease (FOG) that is washed down the drain can clog household plumbing, sewer laterals, and sewer mains. Keep FOG out of your drains.



Public Meetings

The Stege Sanitary District is an independent Special District of the State of California. It operates and maintains 148 miles of sanitary sewers and two pumping stations serving over 33,000 residents in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex.

The Board of Directors generally meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 pm at the District's office located at 7500 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. You are encouraged to attend. **S**

www.stegesan.org

Find the latest announcements; a list of registered plumbing contractors; sewer permit and fee information; Board meeting schedule, minutes, and agenda; and FAQs on the District's website, www.stegesan.org. **S**



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To Contact Us: Phone: (510) 524-4668 or after hours (510) 524-4667 Email: staff@stegesan.org Web: www.stegesan.org

Spotlight on Service


District Collection Crew

The Stege Sanitary District collection crew maintains the 148 miles of sewer pipes that run through Stege. That includes regular cleaning and upkeep of the sewer lines and responding to service calls as they arise—even those that occur late at night. A crew member is always on-call, 24-hours a day.

Our crew always wears reflective personal protection equipment, drive in clearly marked District vehicles, and will always carry identification. Feel free to request their identification or contact **District offices 24/7 at (510) 524-4667** for verification.

In order to maintain the entire system, our crew needs to access sanitary sewer easements (approximately 28% of the system) typically located in back yards. District personnel will only access your property if you have a sewer easement on your property. Our staff will *never ask to come into your home unannounced, for any reason whatsoever*. Our staff will enter your home only if a sewer backup is currently occurring inside the house that needs verification and only at the explicit instruction of the homeowner.

Here are some ways you can help the collection crew do its job:

1. Cleaning and inspecting sewer mains often involves working in the middle of busy streets. When you see the District truck and orange cones, slow down and drive carefully through the area.
2. If you have a District easement, please keep access to the manhole covers free of obstructions. Permanent structures, trees, and debris storage are prohibited on any portion of the easement.
3. If you see water overflowing anywhere, call us to investigate at our 24-hour emergency number at (510) 524-4667 

Enrique Reyes
Collection Worker

Fred Bondoc
Collection Worker

Adam Clark
Collection Worker

Dennis Wright
Maintenance Superintendent

Juan Perez
Collection Worker

