



THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 1

SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Summer 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dwight Merrill
President

Jay James
Vice President

Paul Gilbert-Snyder
Director

Alan C. Miller
Director

Beatrice O'Keefe
Director

DISTRICT MANAGER/ ENGINEER

Rex Delizo, P.E.

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.

INSIDE

Certain Accessory Dwelling Units now Exempt from Connection Fee ... 2

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget 2

Sewer Problems? Call Us First!..... 2

Keep FOG out of Drains..... 3

Don't Forget 3

Spotlight on Service Cathy Kalahele 4

In Memoriam 4



No Rate Increase for 2018

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 2018-2019 was to increase to \$294.00. 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 2017-2018 fiscal year. The current rate structure will meet necessary operating and capital improvement expenses while maintaining sufficient emergency reserve funds.


Sewer service rates in the District remain among the lowest in the Bay Area. A comparison of local sewer service charges is shown below. 

Monthly Sewer Service Charge Comparison



Certain Accessory Dwelling Units now Exempt from Connection Fee

A new California state law exempts certain accessory dwelling units (ADUs), often referred to as “Granny units,” from the sewer connection fee imposed on new dwelling units. To qualify for the exemption, the new ADU must be fully contained within the existing single-family residence or in an existing accessory structure on the property.

ADUs that require structural expansion to the existing single-family residence or accessory, or construction of a new structure on the property, will still be subject to a sewer connection fee. 



Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget

REVENUE

Sewer Operation Fund

Non Operating Income:	
Interest	12,000
Miscellaneous	21,000
Operating Income:	
Permit & Inspection Fees	15,000
Sewer Service Charges	2,435,000
Contracted Services	30,000
Subtotal	2,513,000

Capital Fund

Non-Operating Income:	
Interest	5,000
Operating Income:	
Property Tax	400,000
Capital Service Charges	2,242,000
Connection Fees	150,000
San Pablo Ave. Impact Fee	100,000
Subtotal	2,897,000

TOTAL REVENUE 5,410,000

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses:

Maintenance/Engineering	1,902,786
Pump Stations	16,460
Contracted Repairs	62,000
General & Administration	743,084

Subtotal

Operating Expenses 2,724,330

Capital Expenses

Capital Equipment	425,000
Debt Repayment -SRF Loan	148,200
Sewer Rehabilitation	2,623,000

Subtotal Capital Expenses 3,196,200

Other Expenses

Transfer from Capital Fund	-
Retiree Medical Fund	-

TOTAL EXPENSES 5,920,530

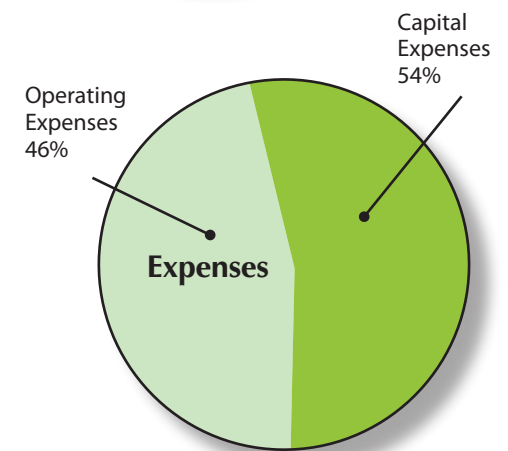
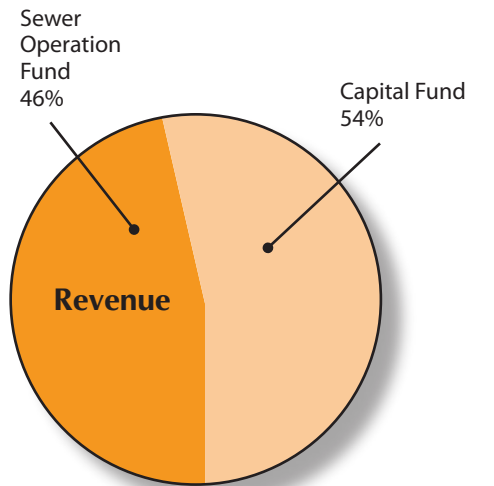
Transfer to/(from) Reserves

Revenue	5,410,000
Expenses	(5,920,530)

Subtotal (510,530)

TRANSFER

TO/(FROM) RESERVES (510,530)



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).



Sewer Problems? Call Us First!

Slow drains? Water backing up into your house? You probably have a clog in your plumbing or in your home's sewer lateral. The sewer lateral is the private sewer line that carries wastewater from your home to the public sewer main. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their lateral up to and including the point where it meets the sewer main.

But the problem might also be in the sewer main itself. Call the District to find out what the problem might be before you call a plumber. If necessary, a crew will be sent out to investigate. The District's 24/7 emergency hotline—(510) 524-4667—is always answered in person. The inspection is free and a crew will try to respond within the hour.

You can find a list of plumbing contractors who have registered with the District on the District's website, www.stegsan.org. Be sure to get at least three quotes before starting a lateral repair.

Immediately call the District if you see water overflowing from a sewer manhole in the street or in a sewer easement. **S**

Keep FOG out of Drains

When Fats, Oils, or Grease (FOG) is washed down the drain, it doesn't go away. It sticks around, clogging household plumbing, the home's sewer lateral, and even the main itself. Liquefied grease and animal fat will solidify and clog pipes, much like a clog in an artery. Liquid oils coat pipes and contribute to blockages.

Running hot water after the grease won't keep it from solidifying in the pipes; neither will flushing detergent down the drain after the grease or using a garbage disposal unit. The only way to keep your pipes FOG-free is never to put fats, oils, or grease down the drain in the first place.

Liquid oil, including large amounts of oil from deep fryers, such as turkey fryers, can be recycled at the El Cerrito Recycling Center on 7501 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito (next door to the District office). This service is free for residents. The El Cerrito recycling center cannot accept solid grease or fat. **S**



Don't Forget

4th of July Celebration



Join the City of El Cerrito in celebrating Independence Day at beautiful Cerrito Vista Park and enjoy a children's fun area with carnival games, jump houses, face painting and rides; arts exhibits; lots of delicious food options; live entertainment; and free valet bike parking. While there, be sure to visit the District booth, where you will be able to ask questions of Board members, view maps, learn about backflow prevention devices, and pick up useful pamphlets and past newsletters. **S**

Put Wipes in the Trash, Not in the Toilet



Unlike toilet tissue, disposable "flushable" wipes don't disintegrate in water. They retain their form and accumulate in sewer mains where they can cause a sewer overflow into the street. Put all wipes where they belong—in the trash, not in the toilet. **S**



BPD

A backflow prevention device (BPD) 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.

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 the District 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. **S**

Certificate of Compliance for Private Sewer Laterals

If you are planning on selling your home, please remember that EBMUD requires a Compliance Certificate to verify that your private sewer lateral is in good repair before home title can be transferred. For more information, visit www.eastbaypsl.com. **S**



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FREMONT CA
PERMIT #68


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

Spotlight on Service

Cathy Kalahale

In August 2017, Cathy Kalahale was promoted to the full-time position of Administrative Assistant for the District. Her duties include preparing maintenance and other reports for internal use, answering phones, ordering supplies, and generally keeping the office running efficiently. But the thing that Cathy likes most about her job is the interaction she has with the public and helping to solve customer problems.

Before her promotion, Cathy was a part-time District employee for five years and before that had worked for Macys for over 22 years.

Have a District-related question or problem? Be sure to stop by the office. Cathy would like to help. 



In Memoriam

Lawrence C. Rugaard, who was Stege Sanitary District Manager/Engineer from February 1985 until April 30, 2000 when he retired, passed away on November 11, 2017. He was uniformly acknowledged by those in the wastewater collection and treatment industry as one of its most distinguished representatives and as an individual whose commitment to public service was extraordinary. His management and engineering talents enabled the District to provide high quality services while finding ways to make those services more efficient and cost effective. Because of Larry's efforts, District customers saved millions of dollars.

Larry will be sorely missed. 



Larry Rugaard, right, seen here with Art Schroeder, at the Inflow Infiltration Correction Program Ground Breaking on July 1, 1987.