



THE ENDEAVOR

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

FEBRUARY 2001

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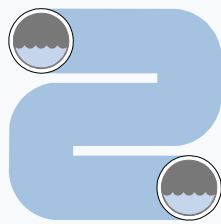
MISSION STATEMENT OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

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.

INSIDE

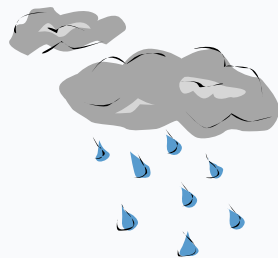
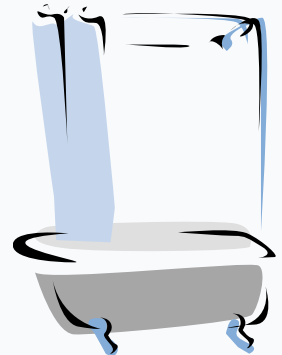
- Grease in the Drains: A Sticky Subject2
- System Upgrades2
- Spotlight on Service: Douglas C. Humphrey, District Manager3
- Frequently Asked Questions3
- Check Your Property Tax Bill4
- Surf Up to Stege4

A Tale of Two Underground Systems



You might think that all those manhole—or service access—covers you see in the streets lead to the same system of underground pipes. You would be wrong.

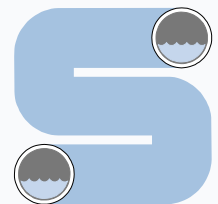
The Stege Sanitary District is responsible for conducting wastewater from homes, schools, and businesses in El Cerrito, Richmond Annex, and Kensington to the regional wastewater treatment plant in Oakland. These cities also employ a separate system that takes rainwater from the streets and surrounding grounds and deposits the runoff into creeks that eventually lead to San Fran-



It is important that homeowners do not pipe rainwater, either from house gutters or a sump pump, into the wastewater system.

cisco Bay. The Stege sanitary system is not designed to handle the large volume of water from a rainstorm. Overflows of the wastewater sewers might occur if rainwater is diverted into this system. It is therefore important that homeowners do not pipe rainwater, either from house gutters or a sump pump, into the wastewater system. To do so violates District ordinances. Penalties and fines may be imposed for these violations.

If you see a manhole overflowing in the street, you probably won't be able to tell if it is from a storm or wastewater main, but we will be able to tell. Call the District at (510) 524-4667 and we will promptly send a maintenance team to evaluate the situation. If you have any questions about the storm runoff system, call the following numbers: City of El Cerrito (510) 215-4382 and the City of Richmond (510) 231-3011. Residents of Kensington should call the Contra Costa County public works office at (925) 313-7000.



Grease in the Drains: A Sticky Subject



It is easy to think that once something is washed down the drain it is gone forever. Unfortunately, that's not true with grease and oil. Quite literally, grease and oil stick around – clogging local plumbing, the lateral wastewater line that connects a home or business to the sewer main, and finally the main itself. Even District cleaning crews using flexible plumbing snakes often cannot completely scrape the accumulated buildup off the sewer main walls. When a blockage occurs, sewer mains can overflow, backing sewage into homes and businesses.

Restaurants and other food service establishments are severely limited in the amount of grease and oil they can allow to enter the sewer system. Large quantities must be contained and disposed of in the trash or saved for reprocessing. Incidental grease that results from washing dishes can be

caught in a grease trap or a grease interceptor. In order for these devices to work, they must be cleaned regularly. While most large food service businesses use grease traps or interceptors, some smaller establishments still do not use them. The District is considering making grease traps or interceptors mandatory in all food service businesses in the near future.

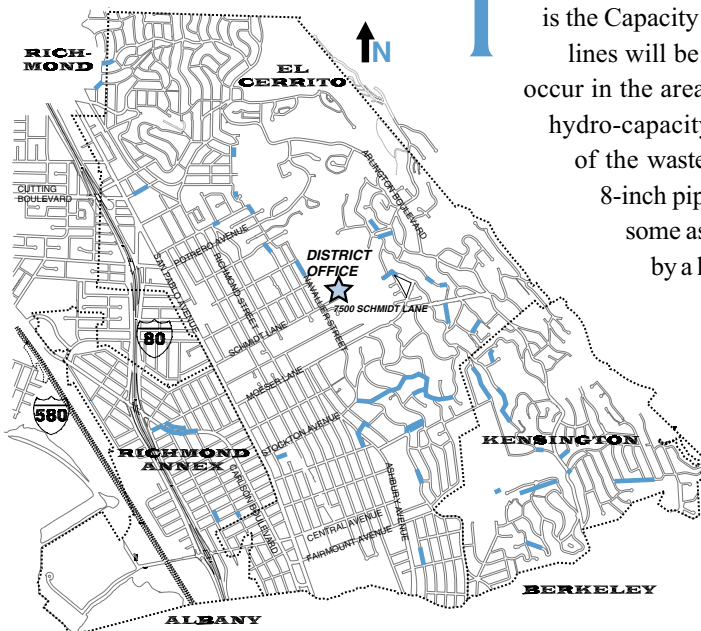
What can a homeowner do to help prevent grease blockages? First of all, never run grease or oil into the sink. Instead, pour these items into a can or jar that can be sealed and thrown away in the trash. Secondly, wipe greasy pots and dishes with paper towels before washing them by hand or placing them in the dishwasher. These simple steps can prevent costly blockages in your home plumbing or lateral.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Two system upgrade projects are slated to begin this coming spring. The first is the Capacity Upgrade Project, in which about twenty wastewater main lines will be replaced with larger lines. The majority of the work will occur in the areas of Carlson Boulevard and Terrace Drive. A computer hydro-capacity model shows the need to increase the carrying capacity of the wastewater mains in these areas. Therefore, the present 6- and 8-inch pipes will be replaced with larger capacity wastewater mains, some as large as 15-inches in diameter. This project will be funded by a low-interest loan (about 2.6%) from the State of California.

The second project is part of the ongoing rehabilitation program that started in 1997. Using a remote camera, the District records the condition of approximately 160,000 feet of sewer line a year. From the information gathered through this process, the District has determined that 20 to 25 line segments need to be replaced in the near future. Here, pipes will be replaced with ones of similar size. Through the use of a new technology called trenchless pipe bursting, the District will be able to replace the pipes with a minimum need for large-scale digging and neighborhood disruption.

Both projects should be completed by early spring of 2002.



STEGE Sanitary District

■ Current System Improvements

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

Douglas C. Humphrey, District Manager

On May 1, 2000, Doug Humphrey replaced Larry Rugaard as the Stege Sanitary District Manager. Larry retired after serving as District Manager for over fifteen years.

Doug has over twenty years experience in wastewater treatment plant and collection systems operation. Before coming to Stege, he was the General Manager of the Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District, a post he had held since 1993.

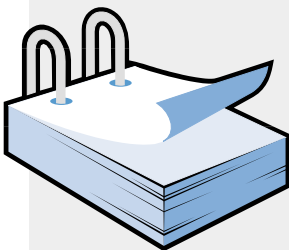
A deep concern for environmental issues, particularly water quality management, combined with an interest in technology and a desire for public service, led Doug to his present career in wastewater management. Doug is licensed by the State of California as a professional civil engineer and is certified by the State as a grade five wastewater treatment plant operator. He holds an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from UC Berkeley and a graduate degree in environmental engineering from the same university. In addition, Doug is an executive board member of the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority (CSRMA), an organization of which Stege is a member.

Doug has lived in the East Bay for over twenty-five years. He currently makes his home in Oakland with his wife and two daughters, ages seven and thirteen. In his free time, Doug can often be found watching his daughters play soccer and basketball, or refereeing a youth soccer game. He also enjoys playing basketball and golf and cross-country skiing.

The Stege Sanitary District is fortunate to have such a qualified and talented person to take up the reins of District Manager.



MEETING CALENDAR



The Board of Directors of the Stege Sanitary District regularly meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the District office at 7500 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. The public is invited to attend.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is responsible for breaks or stoppages in the sewer line that leads from my property to the sewer main?

In the Stege Sanitary District, the property owner is responsible for operation and maintenance of this line, also known as the lateral, from the building plumbing, through the line, up to and including connection to the main.

Where can I find a qualified plumber to work on my house sewer line?

A list of bonded and licensed contractors able to do this work is available at the Stege Sanitary District office at 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, and on the Stege Web site at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us. Be sure to get several bids, as estimates may vary.

Do I need a backflow prevention device (BPD)?

If you have experienced or suspect that your home is vulnerable to a sewage backup or overflow, call the District at (510) 524-4667 during normal business hours for a free inspection of your property. A District inspector will tell you whether or not you are required to install a BPD.

What is a sewer easement and do I have an easement on my property?

An easement is the legal right for someone to use another's property for a particular purpose, such as a sewer line. Most easements do not affect the owner's day-to-day use of the property. Owners may not even know they exist. Occasionally, a sewer easement must be accessed and the District may need to excavate an easement to make repairs to a line. It is important, therefore, that no permanent structures are built on an easement. If you would like to find out if you have a sewer easement on your property, call the District at (510) 524-4667 during normal business hours.



STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT
 7500 Schmidt Lane □ P.O. Box 537
 El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 □ (510) 524-4668

PRSRT STD
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 Oakland, CA
 Permit Number 3729

CHECK YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

The Stege Sanitary District collects sewer service charges annually through property tax billing. Your annual fees are indicated on a separate line. The fees for July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 are as follows:

- Single family residence: \$89.28
- Multiple family units: \$66.72 per unit
- Commercial and industrial: based on water usage

Homes with in-law units are considered two-unit multi-family residences and are thus charged \$133.44. If you believe you have been charged incorrectly, please call the District office at (510) 524-4668. State law allows the District to go back only four years from the date a claim is filed to make adjustments and issue a refund, if one is appropriate.

SAMPLE PROPERTY TAX BILL

| PROPERTY TYPE | FULL VALUE | ** LEVIES AND BONDS | AMOUNT | ** LEVIES AND BONDS | AMOUNT |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|----------|
| LAND | 83,215 | DA STRM DRAIN RECONST | 58.00 | | |
| IMPROVEMENTS | 121,937 | DV MOSQUITO & VECTOR | 2.46 | | |
| PERSONAL PROPERTY | | DY EMERGENCY MED B | 10.00 | | |
| | | GG EL CERRITO-SHW CTR | 58.46 | | |
| GROSS VALUE | 205,152 | IH FED STORMWATER A-S | 23.50 | | |
| | | JX STEGE SEWER CHG | 89.28 | | |
| FEES/EXEMPTIONS | 7,000 | KO RBMD WET WEATHER | 58.80 | | |
| SEVERANCE | | MZ ST LIGHT & LAND | 72.00 | | |
| NET VALUE | 198,152 | | | | |
| *TAX REDUCTION DUE TO STATE FINANCED HOMEOWNER TAX RELIEF: | | | | | |
| | \$72.48 | NET VALUE X RATE = AX | | | |
| TOTAL LEVIES AND BONDS | | | | | 449.94 |
| TAX DESCRIPTION | | | | RATE | |
| COUNTYWIDE TAX | | | | 1.0000 | 1,981.52 |
| EAST BAY MUD | | | | .0086 | 17.06 |
| EAST BAY REGWL PK | | | | .0065 | 12.88 |
| WEST CC UNIF BD 98 | | | | .0204 | 40.42 |
| TOTAL RATE | | | | 1.0355 | |

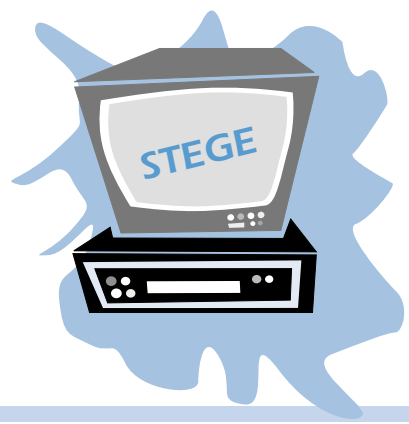
Surf Up to Stege

Did you know that the Stege Sanitary District has its own Web site? The address is www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

Here you will find:

- ◆ Information on ongoing programs and projects
- ◆ District phone numbers and email contacts
- ◆ A calendar of meetings
- ◆ A list of standards and requirements
- ◆ A directory of bonded and licensed contractors whom you may wish to contract for your plumbing needs.

The site is constantly being updated, so be sure to visit often.



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**FREE BACKFLOW
PREVENTION
INSPECTION**

Is your home adequately protected with a backflow prevention device? For a free backflow inspection, call the District office at (510) 524-4667, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

