



THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

VOLUME X, NUMBER 1 SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX SPRING 2000

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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

- Your Money at Work....2
- No Rate Increase
— Again.....2
- Free Backflow
Inspection.....2
- Status of the
Rehabilitation
Program.....3
- Roof and Yard Drains ..3
- District Excellence
Recognized in 19994
- Customer Service
Survey.....4

Do You Have a Sewer Easement on Your Property?

The Stege Sanitary District maintains over 155 miles of sanitary sewers in Kensington, El Cerrito, and the Richmond Annex. Over 28% of these lines are located on private property in sewer easements or reserves that were established when the lands in the area were subdivided.



You may not know that you have a sewer line on your property. In the past, developers often failed to properly record the easement to the property title. These easements, therefore, do not show up in a title search.

Property owners who are unaware of sewer easements on their property may have constructed permanent structures that now restrict District access and use of the sewer for maintenance and repair.

In an effort to correct this situation, the District has adopted Ordinance 1726-1299. This regulation establishes policies, standards, and requirements for District easements and for easement encroachment. It establishes guidelines for permitted uses of the easement areas and provides for encroachment permits. Certain uses of the easement, such as the construction of permanent structures, tree planting, and debris storage, are prohibited.

The new ordinance also extends assistance to homeowners who are currently in violation of the regulations by allowing them to continue a prohibited use until the earliest time that the violation can be eliminated. The District, at the request of the property owner, may issue an encroachment permit with stipulations for the ultimate elimination of the prohibited use.

Allowable uses and coverage on District easements include lawns, flower beds, loose paving stones, and similar landscaping features that do not ordinarily cause interference with District access and use of the easement area.

To find out if have a sewer easement on your property, call the District at

(510) 524-4667,
Monday
through
Friday,
8:30 am
to 5:00 pm.



Allowed Uses and Coverage

- ◆ Lawns
- ◆ Flower beds
- ◆ Loose paving stones

Prohibited Uses and Coverage

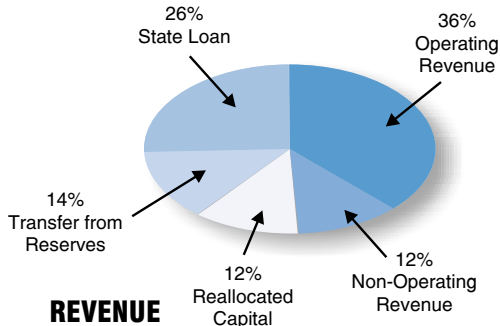
- ◆ Permanent structures
- ◆ Trees
- ◆ Debris storage

YOUR MONEY AT WORK ON THE COLLECTION SYSTEM 1999-2000

REVENUE

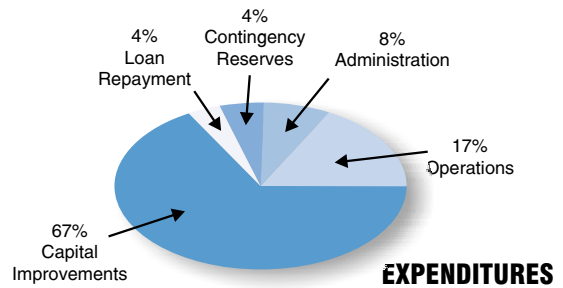
Operating Revenue	
User Charges	\$1,507,000
Connection Fees	10,000
Inspection Fees	8,000
Contracted Services	20,000
Non-Operating Revenue	
Tax Collections	156,500
Interest Earned	330,000
Reallocated Capital	480,000
State Revolving Loan Fund	1,053,000
Transfer from Reserves	564,240
<hr/>	
	\$4,128,740

Revenue carried over and allocated to projects in progress.



EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$324,780
Operations	707,960
Capital Improvements	2,754,500
Loan Repayment	160,500
Contingency Reserves	181,000
<hr/>	
	\$4,128,740



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

No Rate Increase — Again

The current charge of \$89.28 per annum for a single-family residence was again posted to the tax rolls for fiscal year 1999-2000. The District has maintained this rate for three years and no change is planned for fiscal year 2000-2001.

The sewer service charge is the single most significant source of revenue for the District. This funding source provides the revenue needed for operations and it provides partial funding for annual capital improvements of the system rehabilitation program, which are currently estimated at \$750,000 per year.

The District has developed a 20-year financial plan that integrates all of the probable costs of the District for operations, capital improvements, replacement, and reserves during that time and projects the necessary sewer service charge to District customers. The financial model is updated annually with actual costs incurred and revenue received to date and new projections are made to forecast required sewer service charges.

Currently, the Stege Sanitary District maintains the lowest sewer service charge of the seven agencies that are served by EBMUD Special District # 1. The agencies include Alameda, Piedmont, Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and the Stege Sanitary District.

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.



The Status of the System Rehabilitation Program

The goal of the *System Rehabilitation Program*, which was adopted in 1996 and implemented 1997, is to identify and repair potential system failures while making the best use of the existing collection system. The rehabilitation program is necessary to improve customer service, meet regulatory mandates,

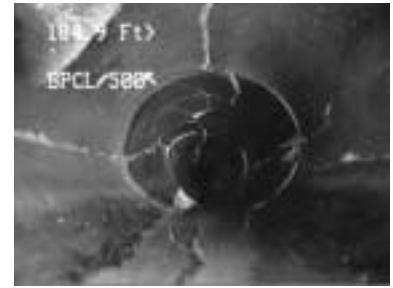
and provide the most efficient and cost-effective means of refurbishing the sewage collection system.

By identifying a problem in a line before it fails, the District avoids the expense, time, and inconvenience of extensive emergency repairs. Another benefit of the program is the reduction of rain and groundwater that infiltrates into the collection system.

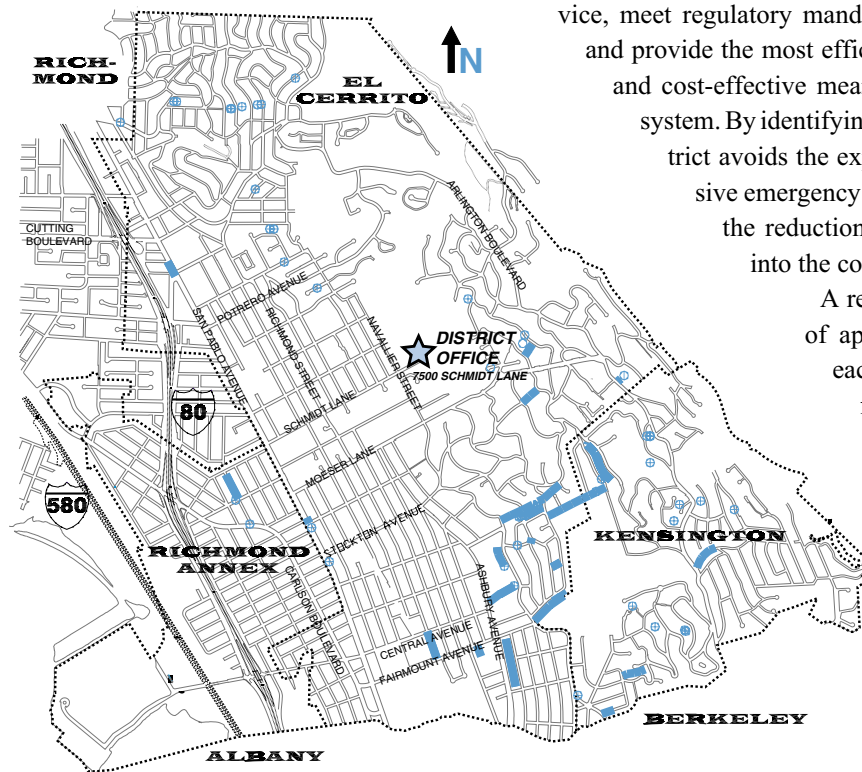
A remote video camera records the condition of approximately 160,000 feet of sewer line each year. The camera provides specific information on potential problem areas.

Those images are then ranked and cataloged to determine which segment of the sewer collection system should be repaired or replaced first. The District currently budgets \$750,000 annually for system rehabilitation work.

The attached map shows the line segments that have been repaired or replaced during the first three years of the program.



Digital image of the inside of a sewer pipe



STEGE Sanitary District

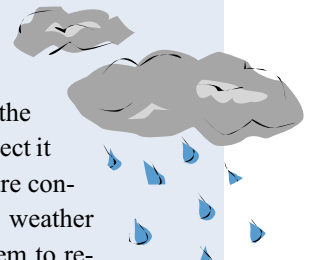
■ Repair/Replacement Projects — 1997-2000

ROOF DRAINS AND YARD DRAINS THAT CONNECT TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM ARE ILLEGAL

Check your home's downspouts. Do they spill into the ground away from the foundation or do they appear to be piped into the ground? Drains that are piped into the ground may be connected to your sewer lateral. This is the pipe that connects your house to the main sanitary sewer line. Piping runoff water into the sanitary sewer system is illegal. Neither roof drainage nor yard drainage may feed directly into the sanitary sewer system. To do so violates District regulations and other federal and local standards. Penalties and

finances may be imposed for these violations.

Repair is fairly simple. Disconnect the roof leader from the service lateral and direct it away from the house foundation. If you are concerned about soil movement during wet weather conditions, provide a separate drain system to remove the rainwater and surface drainage. Rainwater and surface runoff may be routed to the nearest *storm* sewer.





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District Excellence Recognized in 1999

Last year, the Stege Sanitary District won several prestigious awards for its excellent service and innovation.

In February, the District was acknowledged as “The Collection System of the Year 1998” by the San Francisco Bay Section of the California Water Environment Association. A plaque acknowledging the award is proudly displayed at the District office.

In August, at the annual meeting of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) held in San Diego, the District received two additional awards. From among the 80 agencies represented in CASA, Stege Sanitary District Manager Larry Rugaard was selected for the CASA 1999 Outstanding Service Award. Mr. Rugaard received this award in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to public service and because his outstanding management and engineering talents enabled the District to provide the highest quality, most efficient, and cost-effective service to its customers.

At the same meeting, the Stege Sanitary District was chosen as the recipient of the 1999 CASA Innovation Award for its development and implementation of the “Video Inspection Enhancement and Predictive Failure Model.” The use of the model significantly increases engineering productivity by accurately evaluating pipeline conditions and predicting potential system failures before they happen. It also eliminates outdated pipeline videotape libraries by storing and cataloging images in an easily accessed and inexpensive digital format.

Both CASA awards are also proudly displayed for your inspection at the District office.

Customer Service Survey

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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



Every time a District employee makes a repair call in response to a service request, the District follows up with a *Customer Response Survey*. This survey form is mailed with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The District uses the survey to review and establish procedures to improve customer service and as a positive incentive to improve staff performance.

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

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