



# THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

VOLUME XV NUMBER 1

SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

SUMMER 2007

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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

- Keeping the Bay Clean and Healthy ..... 2
- Spotlight on Service Stege Wins CSRMA Award ..... 3
- Water Conservation ... 3
- Sewer Rates Comparisons..... 3
- Stege History ..... 3
- Proper Disposal of Medicines ..... 4
- Safer Alternatives..... 4
- How to Contact Stege..... 4

## El Cerrito 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fair



Join the Stege Sanitary District in helping the City of El Cerrito celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this Fourth of July. The Fair will be on the Portola playground in Cerrito Vista Park at Moeser Lane and Pomona Avenue. Festivities begin at 10:00 am and continue through 4:00 pm. Musicians on the main stage in Cerrito Vista Park will entertain until 7:00 pm.

Stop by the Stege booth to meet members of the District's Board of Directors. Ask questions, view maps, learn about backflow prevention devices, and pick up useful pamphlets, past newsletters and even some give-away items at the Stege booth.

In addition to Stege, representatives from the City of El Cerrito's municipal agencies, historical and cultural societies, civic, political and fraternal groups, and religious organizations will be on hand to show why El Cerrito has been such a great place to live and work for 90 years.

Children's activities will include games and entertainment, a climbing wall, and inflatable jumpers. The El Cerrito Art Association will be displaying and selling its members' work. In all, over 65 vendors, including 17 food vendors, are expected to add excitement to the grand event. Admission to the fair is free. All-day wristbands will be sold so children can continue to enjoy a whole day of fun and activity.

The Fourth of July celebration has been a tradition in El Cerrito for over twenty years and about 5,000 people are expected again this year. Join your neighbors this year in a very special celebration!

*On Tuesday, July 3, 2007, the City will conduct a sound test from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Come picnic and enjoy the music.*

*Stege will once again have a booth at the El Cerrito Fourth of July Celebration.*

## Wednesday, July 4, 2007 Cerrito Vista Park Entertainment

- Mariachi San Jose—Puro Mexico
- Circus Imagination—Animal-free circus for youngsters
- Voco—American Acapella
- Obeyjoh—Roots Reggae
- On Taiko—Taiko Fusion
- Shaman Works—Hip Hope-a-Dope
- Mike Marshall and Friends
- Brasilia Chorro
- Santero—Urban Latino
- The Harmonics—Steel Drums, Reggae
- Desert Heat—Belly Dancing
- Peter Morley Rock Trio—Patriotic Power Rock Trio
- Tea Dancing with music by Rod's Rhythm Works



# Keeping the Bay Clean and Healthy— New Regulations Will Be Challenging

The California State Water Resources Control Board (Board), with oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is responsible for regulating the quality of water and treated wastewater released into the San Francisco Bay. Permits that the Board issues for treatment plants require that the agencies operating the plants meet stringent local, state and federal requirements. Meeting these requirements has become increasingly difficult and the State Board is tightening those regulations again. Specifically, the future operation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) wet weather treatment facilities will not be allowed.

The EBMUD Pt. Isabel wet weather treatment plant was constructed in the early 1990s and was part of a cost-effective program, which resulted from the East Bay Inflow/Infiltration Study in the 1980s approved by the Board and EPA. The amount of wastewater coming into the Pt. Isabel plant in heavy rainstorms can swell to 50 million gallons a day, considerably more than the typical dry weather peak flows of about 5 million

gallons a day. The plant holds and treats this excess volume from Stege, Albany and North Berkeley during storms. When the incoming flow is reduced, the surplus wastewater is pumped to the EBMUD treatment plant in Oakland, at the foot of the Bay Bridge. During

extremely high flow periods, the Pt. Isabel plant must discharge some of the treated wastewater to the Bay instead of pumping it to the Oakland facility for additional treatment.

A blue ribbon panel consisting of environmental groups, EPA staff, Regional Water Board staff, technical experts and community groups has been put together to review the challenge of meeting these tough, new regulations. The panel is truly a cross-section of the community that is reviewing EBMUD's alternatives and studies that are underway in order to identify their selected actions.

Reducing the extra water that gets into the sanitary sewer system during

storms is critical to meeting this challenge. Repairing and replacing aging, defective mainline sewers and sewer laterals can cut the amount of rainwater that enters the Stege sewage collection system by up to 86%. District main lines are a source where extra water

*The final plan for meeting the Board and EPA requirements will no doubt involve more than one approach and will involve a collaborative effort.*

can enter the sewage collection system. Stege annually replaces 1¼ - 1½% of its main lines and has already replaced the mains that comprised the worst 10% of the system.

Property owners are responsible for their laterals, including any section that is located under the public right-of-way or streets. Defective laterals can cause up to 75% of extra water in the system. At present, a Certificate of Compliance verifying good condition of a lateral is required when a property or home is sold, but the condition of a lateral at any time is the responsibility of the property owner.

The final plan for meeting the Board and EPA requirements will no doubt involve more than one approach and will involve a collaborative effort. It may be necessary to build storage facilities, expand existing treatment facilities, and accelerate the lateral testing and replacement program. It is very likely there will be major, significant additional expenses involved with the combination of approaches to address the new permits and regulations. Stege remains committed to spending funds in the most cost-efficient manner possible, although it will be challenge to minimize costs to meet the evolving, yet-to-be defined requirements.

*Pt. Isabel wet weather treatment plant*



## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

# Stege Wins CSRMA Award

For the fifth year in a row, the Stege Sanitary District has won the prestigious California Sanitation Risk Management Authority's (CSRMA) Best Performance Award for its record of having over ten years in which there were no on-the-job accidents, no time lost to accidents, and no workman compensation claims.

The CSRMA is a pool of 58 sanitary districts throughout California who have joined together to provide insurance for its member agencies. The organization employs a full-time loss-control specialist who conducts on-site safety evaluations and regional safety training seminars.

By taking a proactive approach to ensuring the wellbeing of its employees and by joining economic resources, CSRMA-member agencies significantly reduce their insurance expenditures while providing a workplace that is safe and operating in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

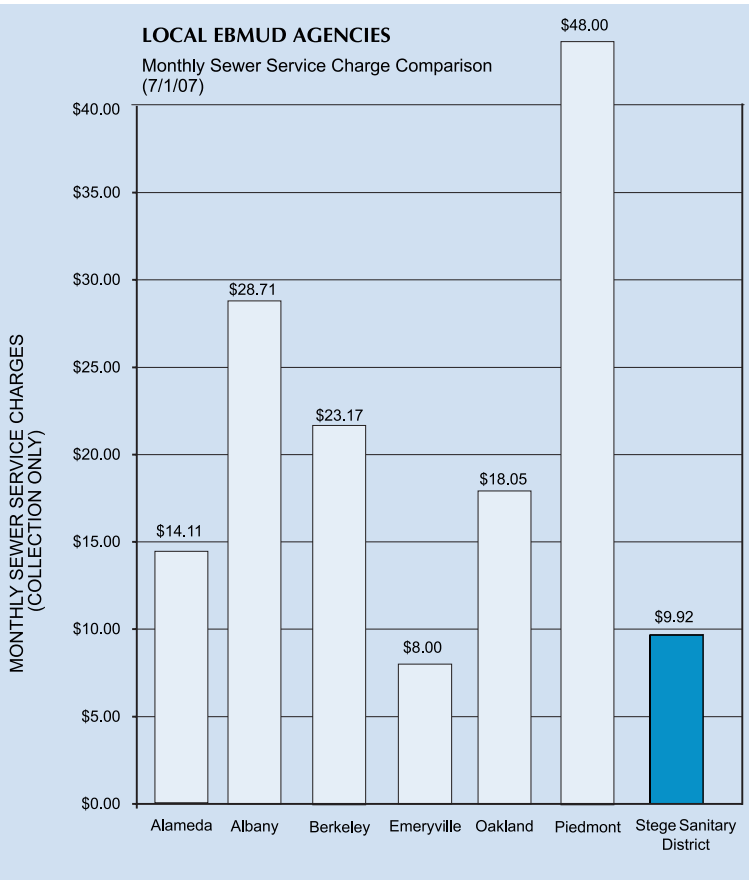
Stege owes its extraordinary safety record to its staff of ten employees who are dedicated to their job and to the community they serve.

## Water Conservation

This past winter was one of the driest in the history of the Mokelumne watershed, which is the Sierra water source for EBMUD. If the coming winter is also dry, mandatory water rationing may become necessary. Voluntary water reduction now will help preserve existing water supplies. Some ways to conserve water include:

- Irrigating no more than three times a week;
- Checking for and repairing all leaks;
- Using a professional car wash that recycles water;
- Updating to water-saving appliances and irrigation systems.

For more conservation tips and EBMUD rebate information, go to [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com).



## Stege History

On May 15, 2013, Stege Sanitary District will celebrate 100 years of service to the communities of El Cerrito, Kensington, and Richmond Annex. To get ready for this historical event, Stege is compiling a history of the District. Do you have any anecdotes or memories of the District you would like to share? Do you have photographs or news clippings that help tell the story of Stege? If so, the District would love to hear from you. Either write to 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 or email [Staff@StegeSD.dst.ca.us](mailto:Staff@StegeSD.dst.ca.us).



Stege junction in 1913



**STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT**  
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 El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 (510) 524-4667

**PRSRT STD**  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Oakland, CA  
 Permit Number 3729

## Proper Disposal of Medicines

**Y**ou know you shouldn't keep medicines past their expiration dates, but what should you do with them? Flushing expired or unwanted medicines down the toilet might seem to be the logical choice. Unfortunately, flushing drugs down the drain may harm San Francisco Bay.

Wastewater treatment cannot remove all medicine and dangerous amounts of chemicals can find their way back into our water system. There is, however, a safe and convenient way to dispose of these items: The West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority Household Hazardous Waste Facility located 1,000 feet east of the Richmond Parkway at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in



Richmond. West County residents can properly dispose of household hazardous waste, including unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines (pills, syrups and inhalers) plus "medical sharps" (needles, syringes and lancets) in approved containers, at the drive-through drop-off center for **NO CHARGE**. Medicines must be in their original containers and controlled substances are not accepted. Proof of residency is required and Kensington residents must obtain a permit from Bayview Refuse and Recycling at (510) 237-4614 before using the facility.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility hours are 9:00 am-4:00 pm Thursday and Friday and 9:00 am-4:00 pm the first

Saturday of each month. The facility is closed from 12:00-12:30 pm for lunch. Call (888) 412-9277 for information.

### SAFER ALTERNATIVES

The EBMUD wastewater treatment plant in Oakland does an amazing job of returning clean water to the Bay, but it can't remove all chemicals.



Some, like flushed medicines, can return to our water system. One of the best ways to protect our environment is to watch what we put down the drain. For a list of safer alternatives to harsh cleaners go to [http://www.recyclemore.com/article\\_subpage.asp?subpagekey=441](http://www.recyclemore.com/article_subpage.asp?subpagekey=441)

### How to Contact Stege

**Phone:**  
 (510) 524-4668  
 (510) 524-4667 (after hours)

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 El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537

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