

# **STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT**

## **Calendar Year 2023 Performance Report**



**JANUARY 2024**

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# STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

## Calendar Year 2023 Performance Report

The Stege Sanitary District Performance Report gives a good sense of how well the District is performing its mission *“to protect public health and the environment for the communities we serve through planning and operation of a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection system.”* This report is prepared by the District Manager for use by the District’s Board of Directors to help evaluate the value and effectiveness of the service being delivered to the customers of the District.

### **Awards & Recognition**

District of Distinction: The Stege Sanitary District is currently accredited as a District of Distinction through the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California and clearly validates the District’s commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices. The District has been re-accredited as a District of Distinction since 2009.

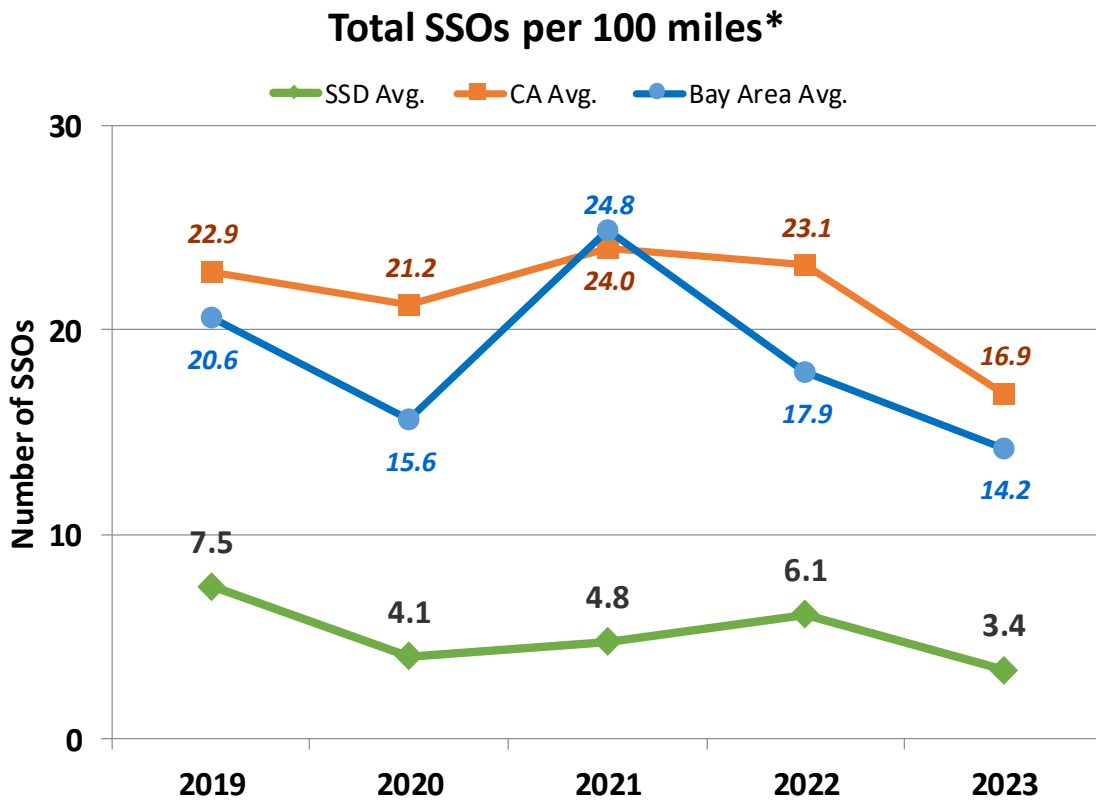
Transparency Certificate of Excellence: The Stege Sanitary District is a current holder of the SDLF District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. The certificate, covering three main subject areas including basic transparency, website access, and outreach activities, highlights the core components necessary to engage and make information available to the public. The certificate demonstrates the District’s commitment to engaging the public and creating greater awareness of District activities. The District has been a holder of this certificate since 2013.

Recognition in Special District Governance: District Manager, Rex Delizo, is a recipient of the SDLF Recognition in Special District Governance. This recognition demonstrates to constituents and colleagues the extent of their commitment and dedication to providing the best possible service to the communities they serve by acknowledging they have taken the time and made the effort to get core governance training and continuing education.

### Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

The District’s ultimate goal is to maintain the sewer collection system so that there are no sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). While the ultimate goal is to prevent all SSOs, the District would like to have the number of SSOs well below the industry average of the State and San Francisco Bay Area Region.

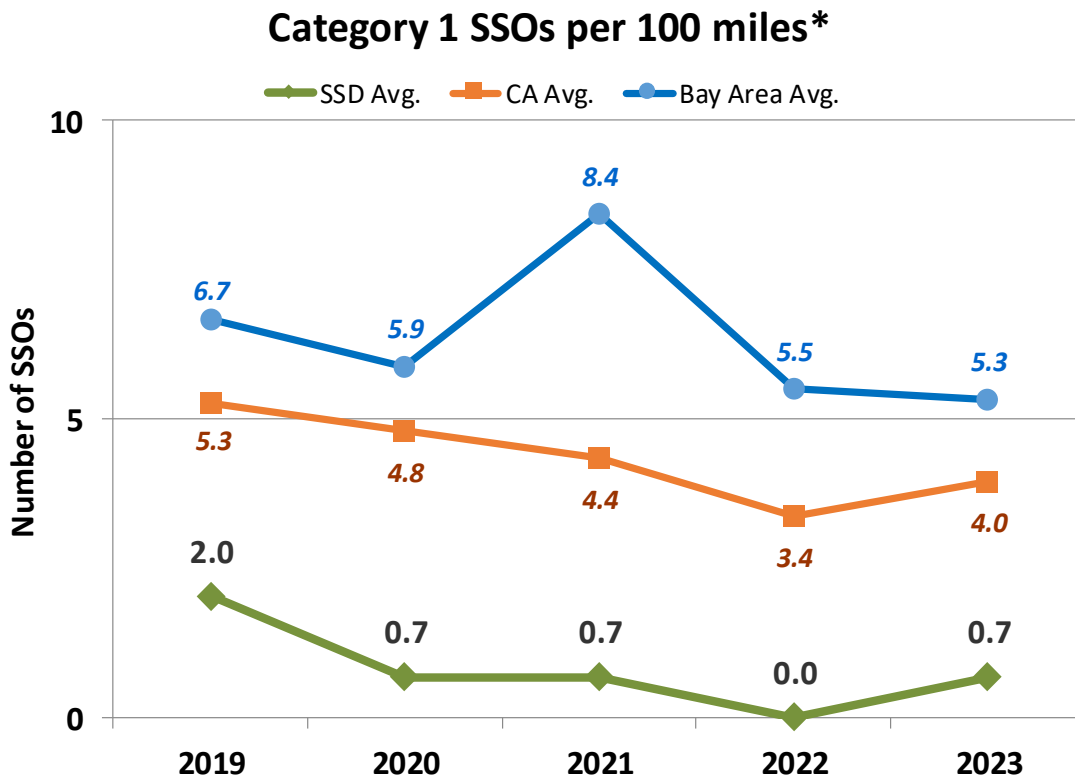
**TABLE 1**



\*Per California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) website on 1/2024

Particularly important is preventing SSOs from reaching a creek, river or other body of water, or not fully recovering SSOs that reach a storm drain. All of these instances are considered “Category 1” SSOs by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). While the ultimate goal is to prevent all SSOs, the District would like to have the number of “Category 1” SSOs well below the industry average of the State and San Francisco Bay Area Region.

**TABLE 2**



\*Per California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) website on 1/2024

When an SSO occurs, the District’s goal is to restore flow within the system, contain the spill, return it back to the system, and mitigate the effects of the overflow. The fundamental goal is to convey all of the collected sewage to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**TABLE 3**

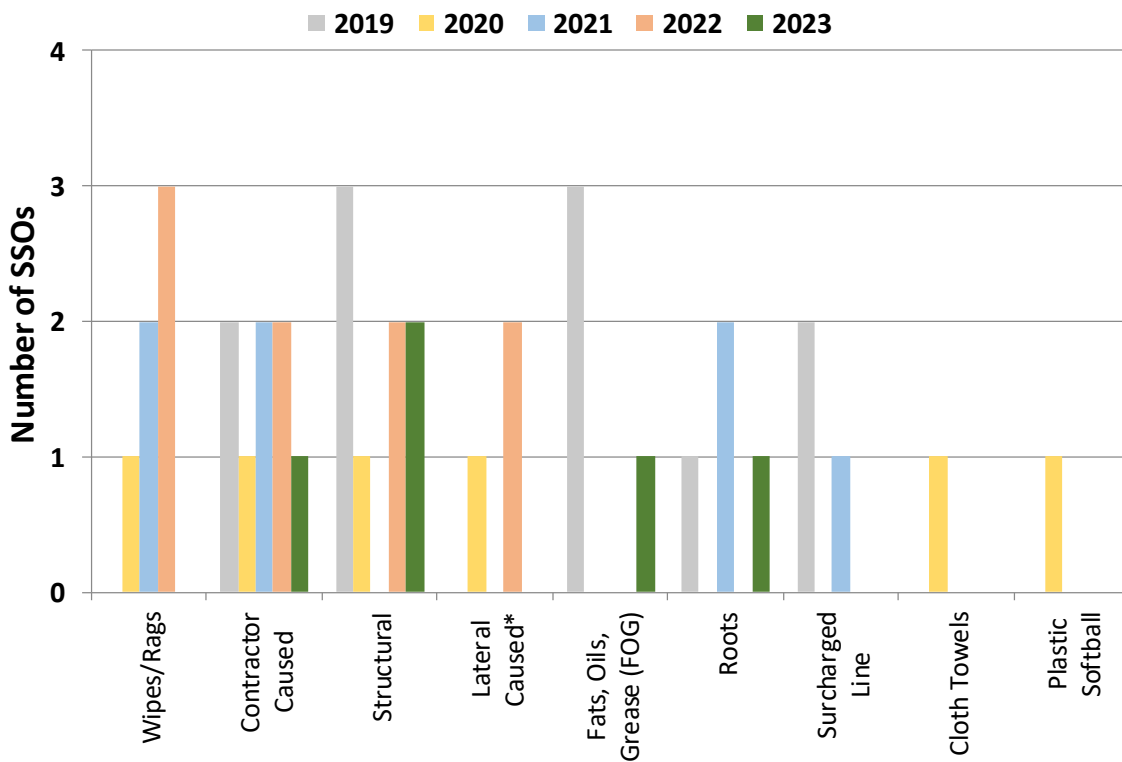
YEAR	VOLUME OF SEWAGE (GALS)	
	COLLECTED	SPILLED AND NOT RECOVERED
2019	1,668,940,000	12,463
2020	1,130,134,000	230
2021	1,046,100,000	14,109
2022	923,600,000	3,590
2023	1,347,200,000	10,660

**ASSESSMENT:** As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the number of SSOs are similar to past years and continues to be well below the industry average for the State and San Francisco Bay Area Region. As shown in Table 3, the volume of SSOs continues to be far below the volume of annual sewage successfully collected and transported.

Staff assesses each SSO to determine the cause in order to take the necessary steps to prevent a reoccurrence. Different causes result in different responses including increasing maintenance frequency, adaptive cleaning, point repairs, line rehabilitation, increasing pipe size, and/or targeted public education, outreach and/or enforcement.

**TABLE 4**

**Causes of Sanitary Sewer Overflows**



*\*Lateral caused SSOs are caused by defective laterals and/or property owners pushing roots, wipes and/or other debris into the main sewer causing a stoppage.*

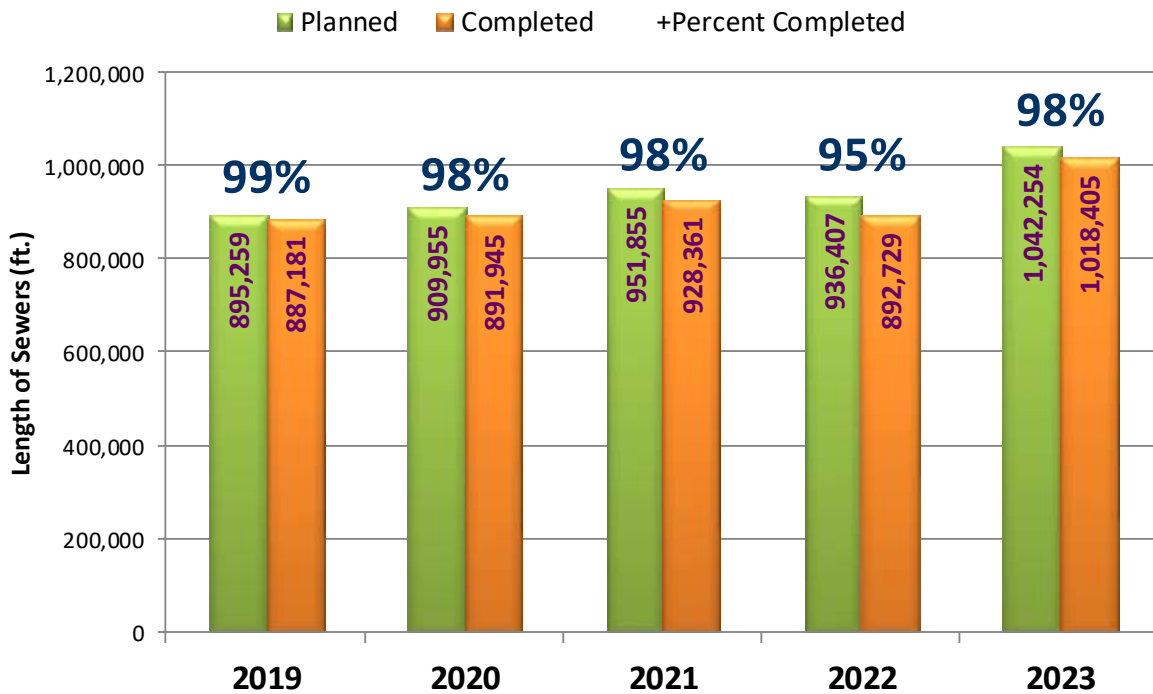
**ASSESSMENT:** Table 4 shows that in 2023 there were 5 SSOs due to a variety of different causes. The contractor caused SSO was due to a utility company damaging a main sewer line during utility repairs. The SSOs due to structural problems were promptly repaired to prevent a reoccurrence. The SSO due to a buildup of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) was sent to EBMUD’s FOG program for further investigation, public education, and targeted outreach on proper handling and disposal of FOG. The main line that experienced the SSO due to roots was added to our chemical root control program to prevent a reoccurrence.

### Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

The District’s goal is to maintain **100%** of the sewer mains scheduled over the course of a year through a combination of hydro-flushing, rodding, and/or closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection. Note that the District uses a dynamic schedule to assign an appropriate maintenance frequency to each individual line. Revisions and modifications are made regularly as maintenance staff are continuously evaluating line conditions and updating frequencies as they clean and inspect lines.

**TABLE 5**

### Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Planned vs. Completed

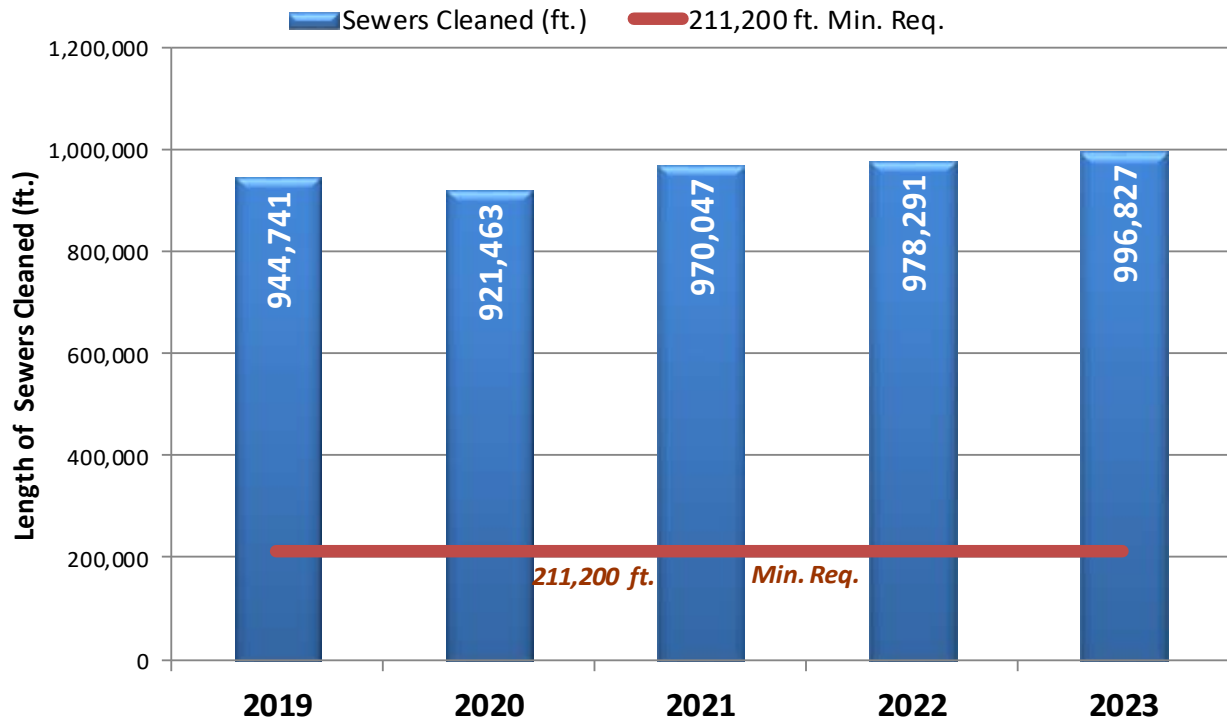




The minimum requirement, per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Consent Decree Case Nos. C 09-00186-RS and C 09-05684-RS (USEPA Consent Decree), is to clean a total of at least **211,200 feet** of sewer mains per year, planned or unplanned, including repeats.

**TABLE 6**

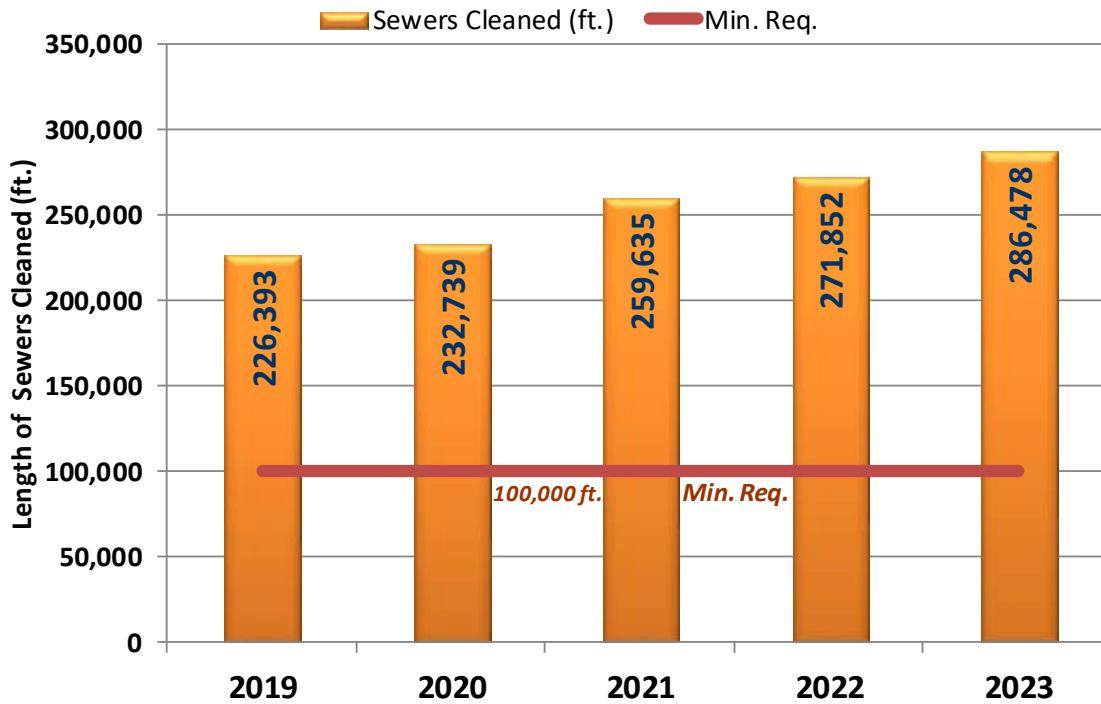
### Sanitary Sewer Cleaning



The minimum requirement, per the USEPA Consent Decree, for “hot spot” lines (six month or less interval), is to clean 100,000 feet of sewer mains per year, planned or unplanned, including repeats.

TABLE 7

**Sanitary Sewer Hot Spot Cleaning**



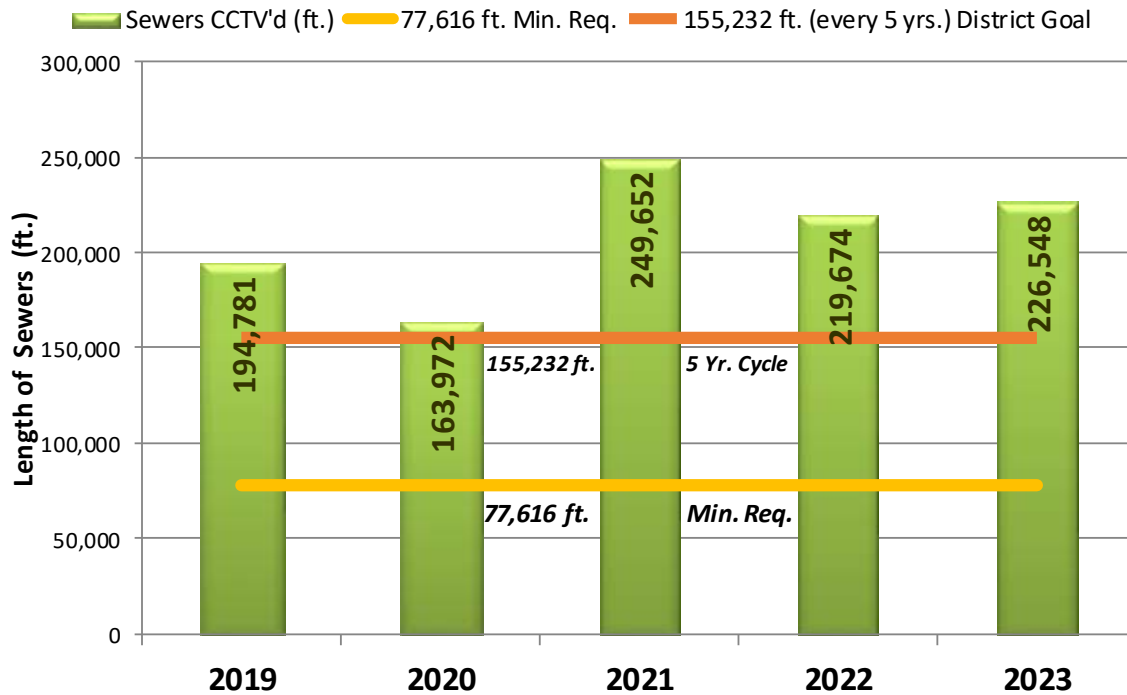
**ASSESSMENT:** As shown in Table 5, maintenance staff continue to routinely complete 95%+ of the scheduled maintenance work and, as shown in Table 6 and 7, continue to perform well above the USEPA required cleaning rate of at least 211,200 feet per year and hot spot cleaning of 100,000 feet per year. Recognize that our intent is not to maintain lines merely to fulfill the USEPA requirements, but to maintain the District sewer main lines as necessary and appropriate to fulfill our mission and prevent SSOs.

### Sanitary Sewer Condition Assessment

The District’s goal is to CCTV inspect every line in the District on a five year revolving schedule which is equivalent to at least **155,232 feet** per year. The minimum requirement, per the USEPA Consent Decree, is to CCTV inspect no less than 10 percent of the lines on a cumulative total of **77,616 feet** per year.

**TABLE 8**

### Sanitary Sewer Condition Assessment

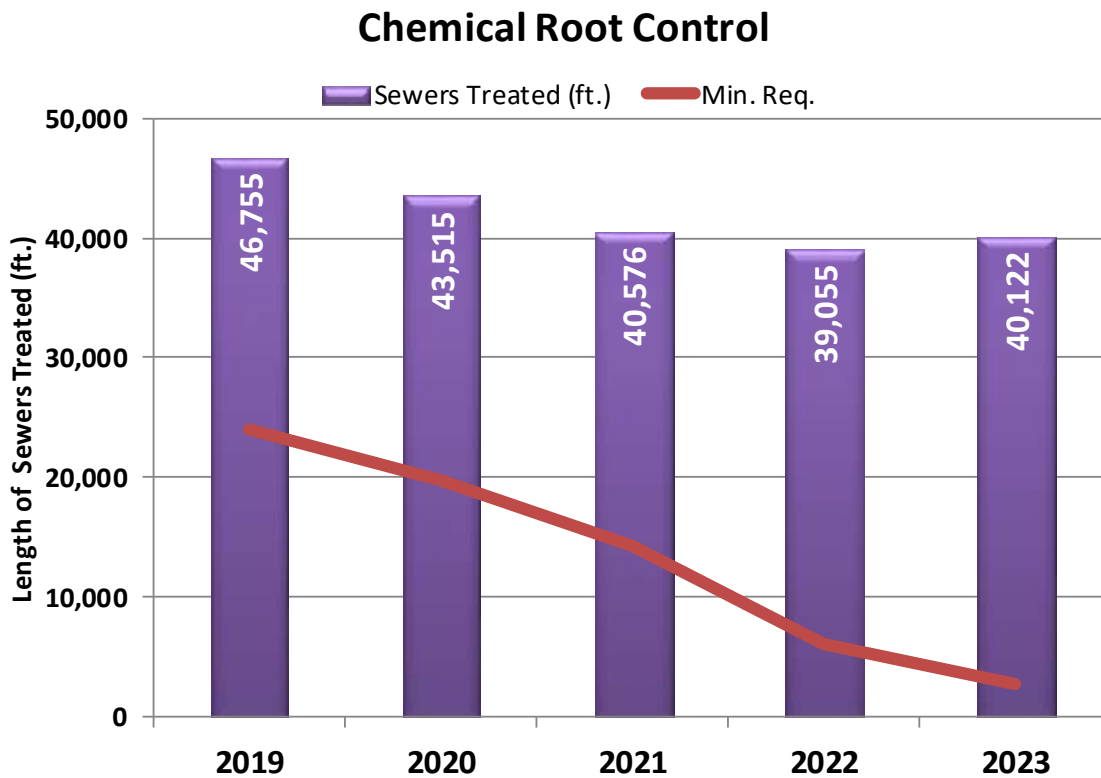


**ASSESSMENT:** Maintenance staff continue to complete CCTV inspection work above the 5 year revolving schedule rate and almost three times the USEPA required CCTV inspection rate of 77,616 feet per year. Again, our intent is not to CCTV inspect lines merely to fulfill the USEPA requirements, but as necessary and appropriate to fulfill our mission and prevent SSOs.

### Chemical Root Control

The current minimum requirement, per the USEPA Consent Decree, is to chemically treat with foam to control excessive roots no less than 2,682 feet of lines annually on a three year rolling average.

TABLE 9



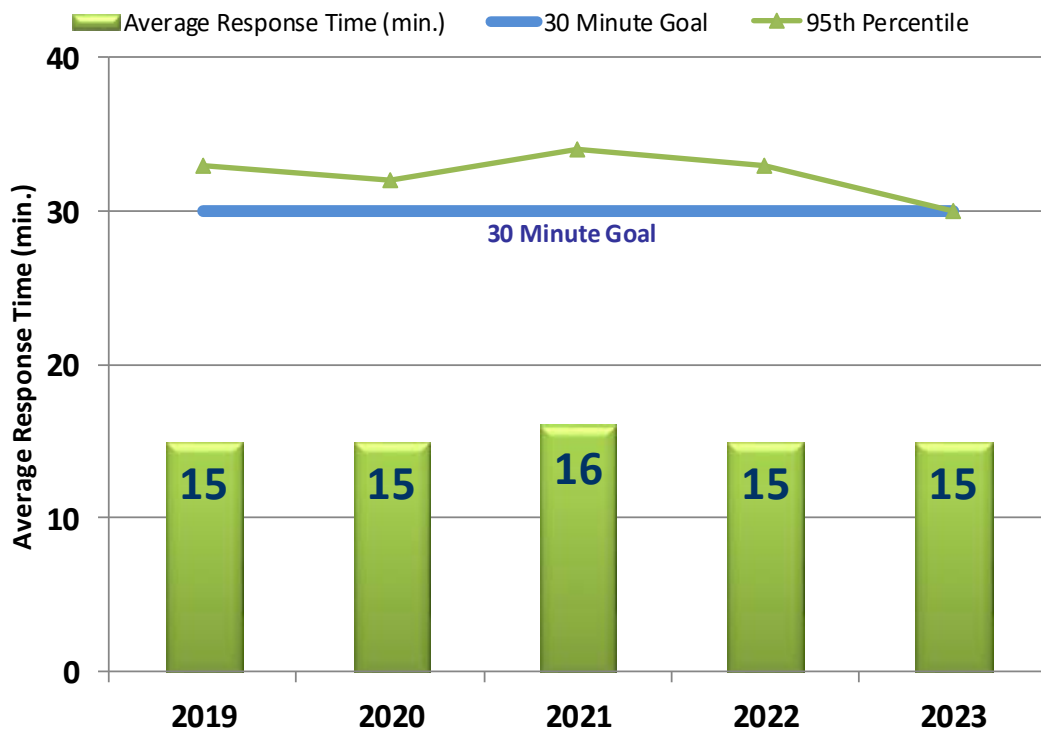
**ASSESSMENT:** The District continues to stay well above the USEPA required minimum feet per year. The minimum requirement will continue to be reduced each year, pending USEPA approval, as lines are rehabilitated or CCTV assessment indicates there are no longer excessive roots requiring treatment. A reduction is currently proposed to decrease the minimum requirement by the remaining required 2,682 feet due to recently rehabilitated sewer mains no longer having excessive roots requiring treatment. Again, our intent is not to chemically treat with foam to control excessive roots merely to fulfill the USEPA requirements, but as necessary and appropriate to fulfill our mission and prevent SSOs.

### Service Call Response

The District’s goal is to respond to service calls quickly to prevent as much spillage as possible in the event of an SSO. The goal of the District is to respond to service calls during business hours within **30 minutes**.

TABLE 10

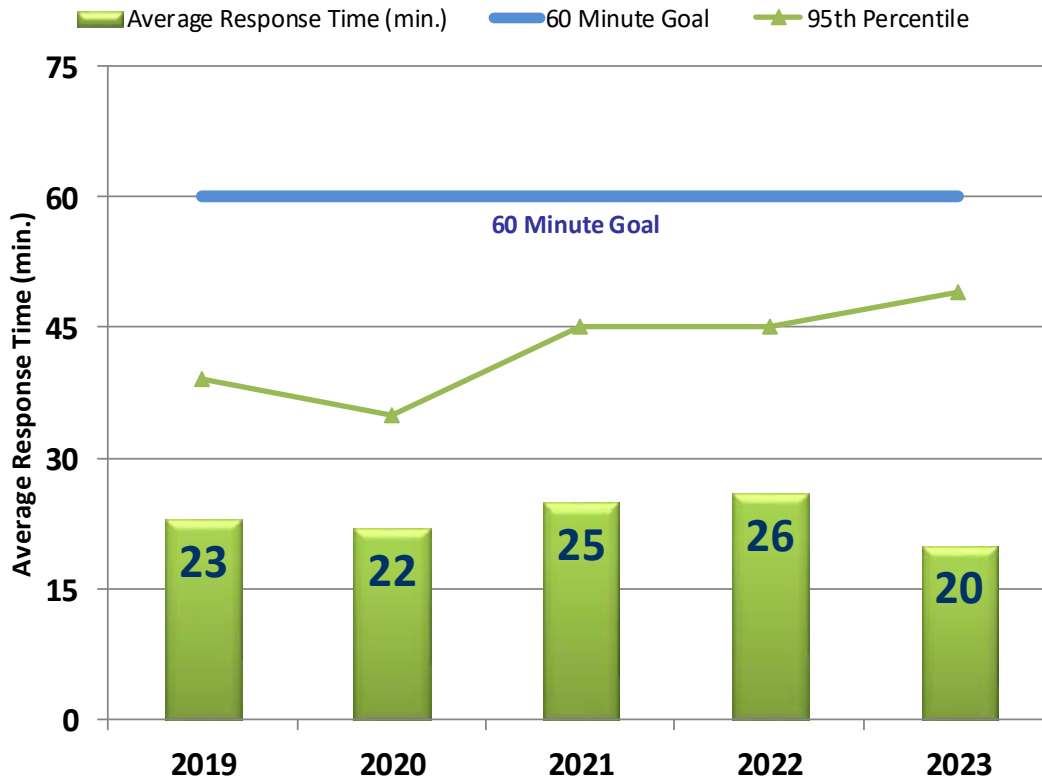
### Service Call Response Time DURING Business Hours (min.)



After business hours, the goal of the District is to respond to service calls within **60 minutes**.

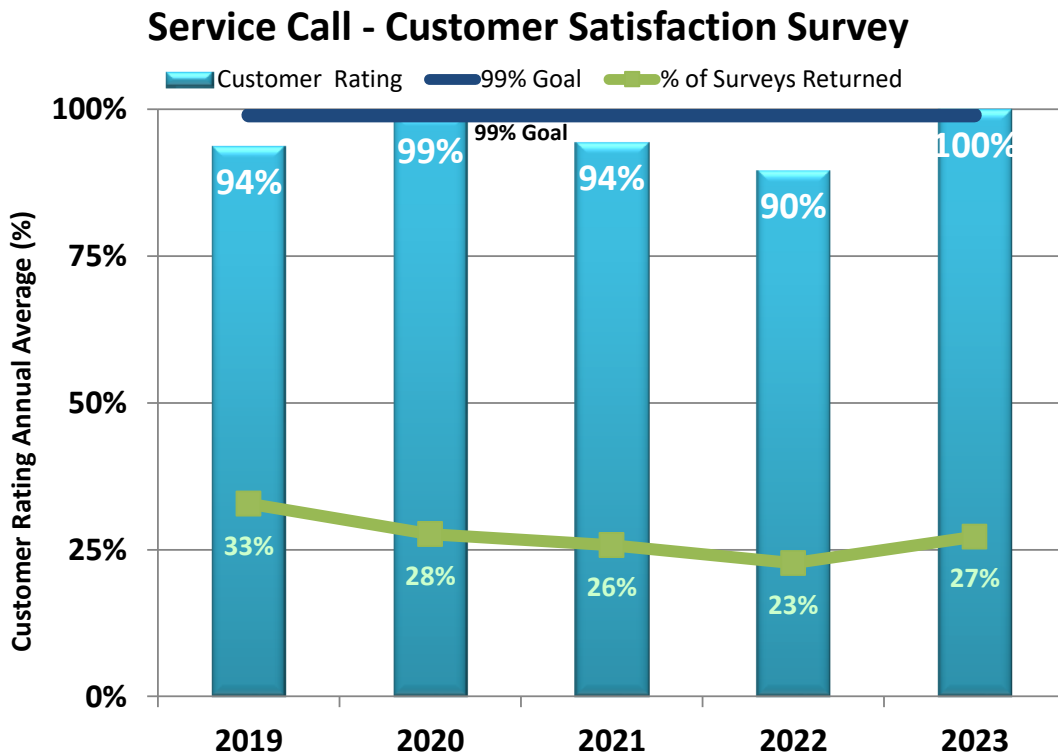
TABLE 11

**Service Call Response Time  
AFTER Business Hours (min.)**



A customer satisfaction survey is sent after each service call for feedback on the quality of service received. The goal is for 99% satisfaction.

TABLE 12



Surveys Sent	137	152	190	163	169
Surveys Returned	45	42	49	37	46

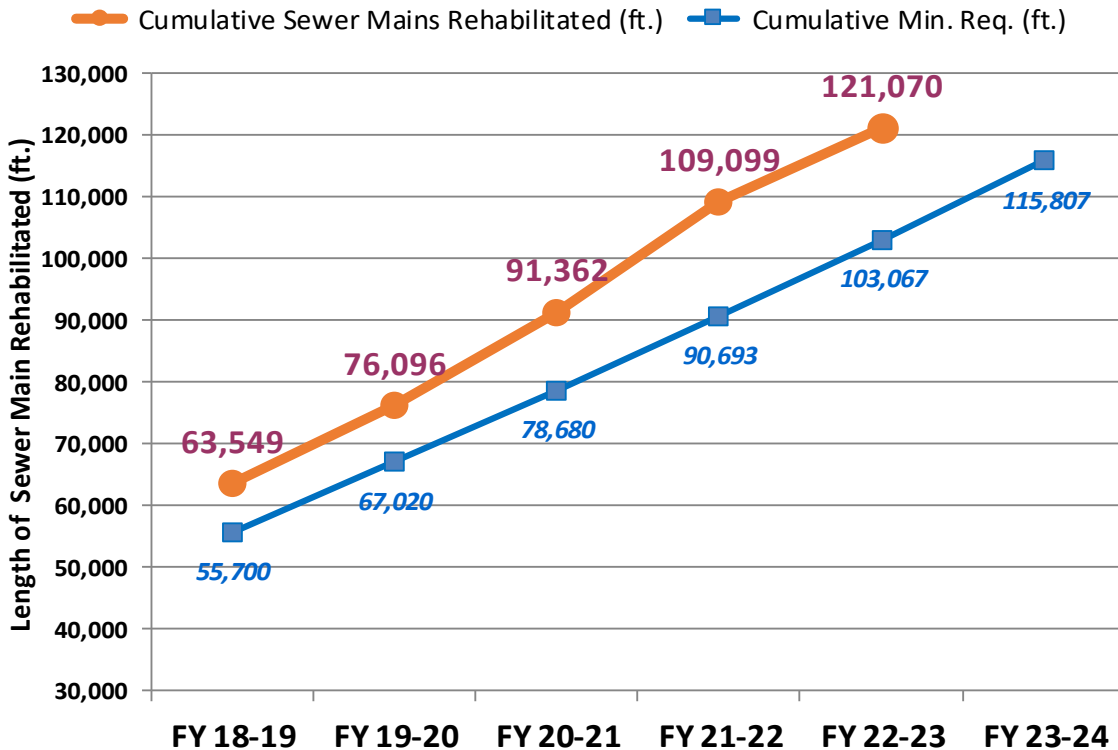
**ASSESSMENT:** As shown in Table 10 and 11, both average response times continue to be well below the 30 minute and 60 minute response goals. The fast response time, in conjunction with staff making a concerted effort to be conscientious, courteous, and helpful, contributes to the consistently high customer satisfaction rating as shown in Table 12.

### Sanitary Sewer Main Rehabilitation

The minimum requirement, per the USEPA Consent Decree, is to complete rehabilitation of **103,067 feet** of sewer main by the end of FY 2022-23 and to continue at no less than the feet of sewer main stated in the Consent Decree Appendix based on a cumulative total (e.g., 34,040 feet by June 30, 2017; 44,707 feet by June 30, 2018; etc.) for the duration of the Consent Decree.

TABLE 13

### Sanitary Sewer Main Rehabilitation



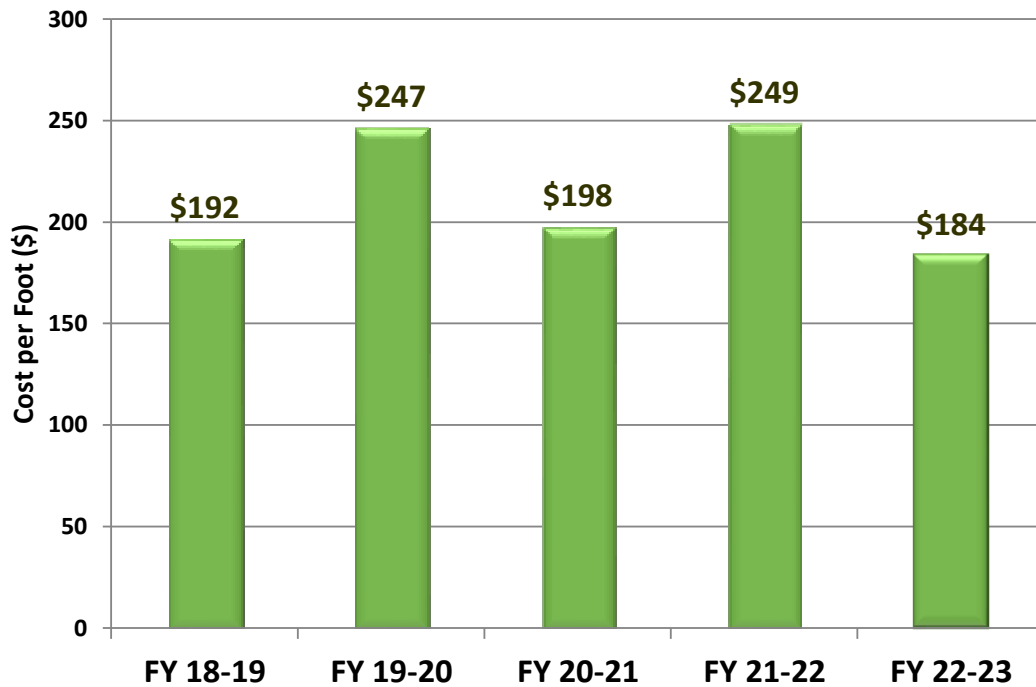
**ASSESSMENT:** As shown in Table 13, the District’s cumulative rehabilitation total of 121,070 feet at the end of FY 22-23 is 17% above the required cumulative rehabilitation total of 103,067 feet. The current total is already well above the Consent Decree requirement for FY 23-24 with more than 12,000 feet of rehabilitation work scheduled and still yet to be completed this current fiscal year.



The cost to complete the required rehabilitation of sewer main is subject to market conditions and other external factors. Staff continues to adjust projects to try to stay one step ahead of the market to keep construction costs as low as possible.

TABLE 14

### Sewer Main Rehabilitation Cost per Foot



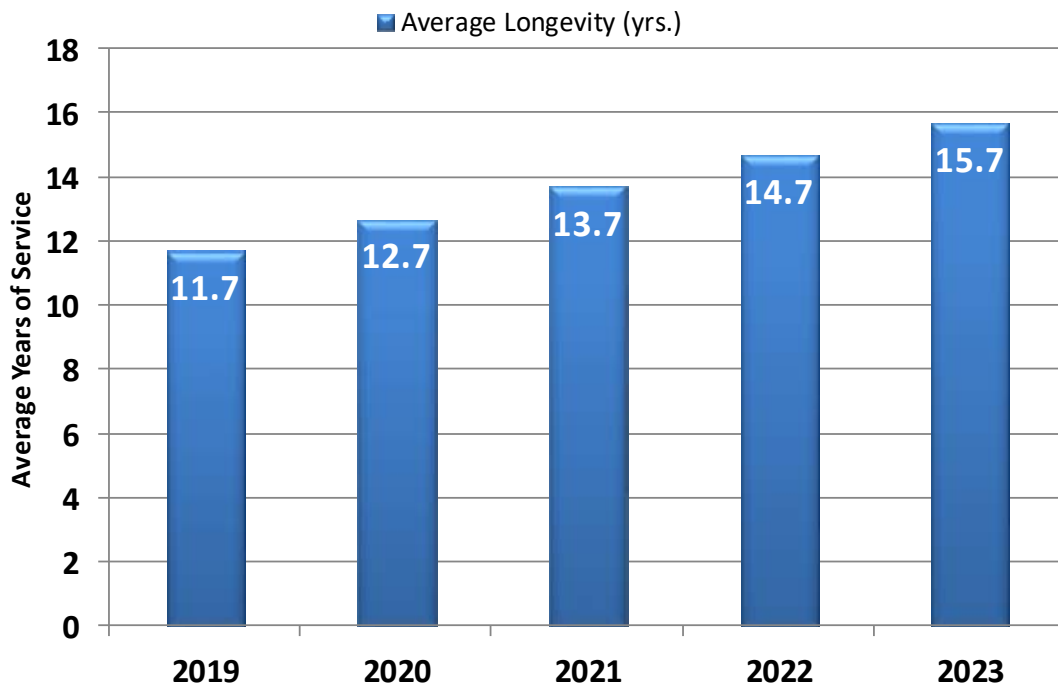
**ASSESSMENT:** The sewer main rehabilitation cost per foot is back down to \$184 for FY 2022-23 due to the sections of sewer work requiring the less costly pipe bursting method of rehabilitation as opposed to open trench replacement required for pipe upsizing and/or adjacent utility concerns. Engineering staff will continue to try to stay ahead of the required cumulative rehabilitation total and manage upcoming projects accordingly to try to protect against the high construction cost increases that our neighboring agencies have been experiencing.

## Employee Retention/Longevity

Once time and money have been invested to recruit and train good employees, it's in the District's best interest to retain and motivate them to continue to provide value to the District. Excessive employee turnover increases expenses, has a negative effect on employee morale, and would be a prime indicator that something is not right within the workplace.

TABLE 15

### Employee Retention/Longevity

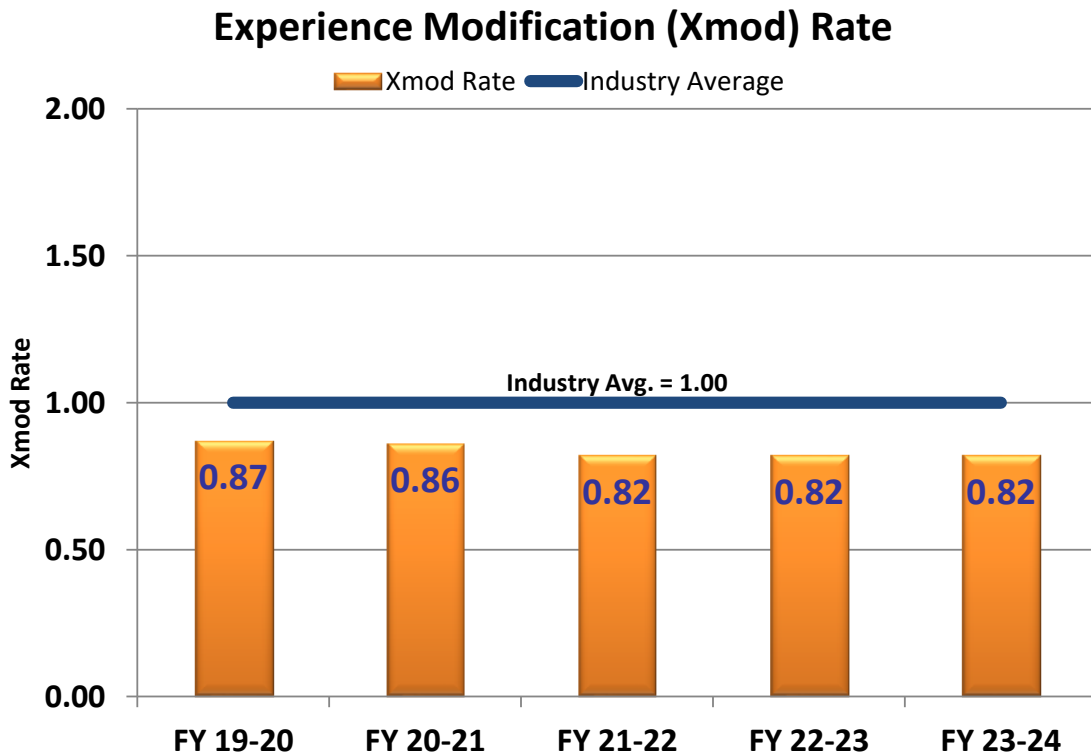


**ASSESSMENT:** Employee retention continues to remain high. For more than a decade, the majority of employee turnover has been as a result of retirement. The District continues to value its employees and, in return, employees continue to be loyal to the District. Our highly trained, highly skilled workforce longevity helps to keep the District's institutional knowledge and history intact. The average years of service is currently almost 16 years.

### Experience Modification (Xmod) Rate

The Experience Modification (Xmod) rate is the factor resulting from the statistical comparison of a company’s Workers’ Compensation loss history to the loss history of an average company. The number is used by worker’s compensation insurance providers to gauge both past cost of injuries and future chances of risk. An Xmod of 1.0 is exactly average. Numbers over 1.0 indicate that the District has more injuries and illness than the industry average, while numbers below 1.0 are better than the average.

TABLE 16



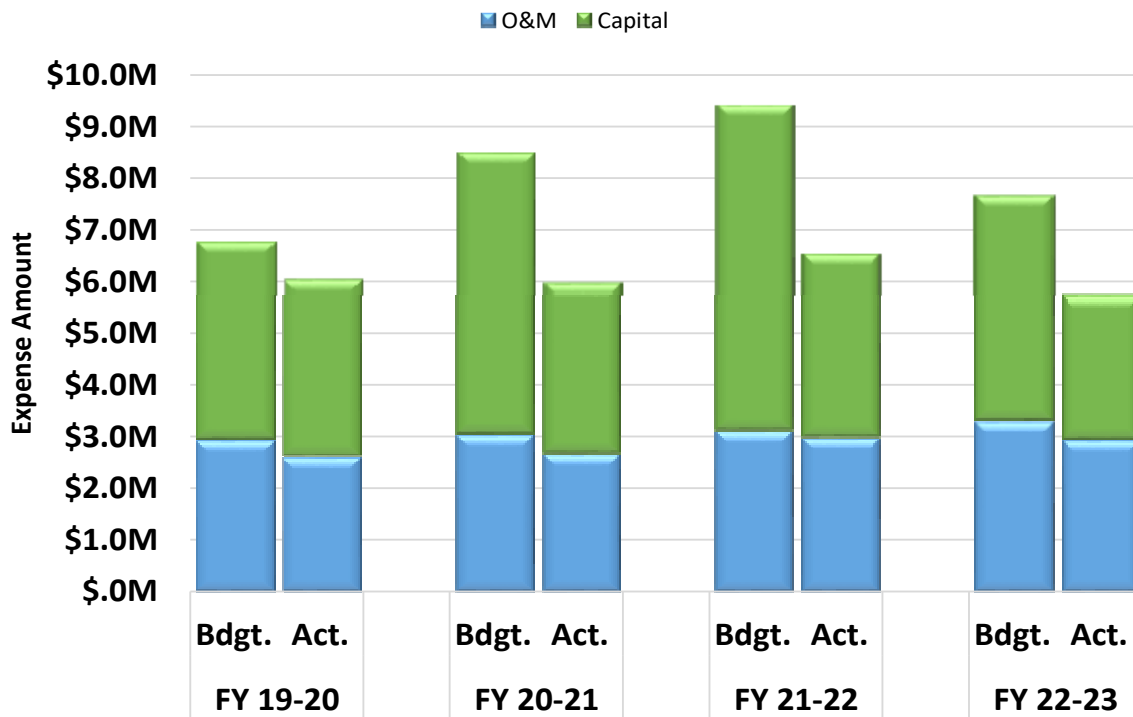
**ASSESSMENT:** The District continues to have a historically safe workplace and, until recently, had gone 20 years without a worker’s compensation insurance incident. Because the District has a small staff, potential losses have significant impacts on the Ex-Mod rate. Even with the recent minor incident, the District’s Xmod rate continues to perform better than the industry average and has decreased back down to pre-incident levels.

**Finances**

The annual budget represents a detailed analysis of how management forecasts the District’s revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. The goal is to execute the planned budget while keeping the financial operation within the forecasted amounts.

TABLE 17

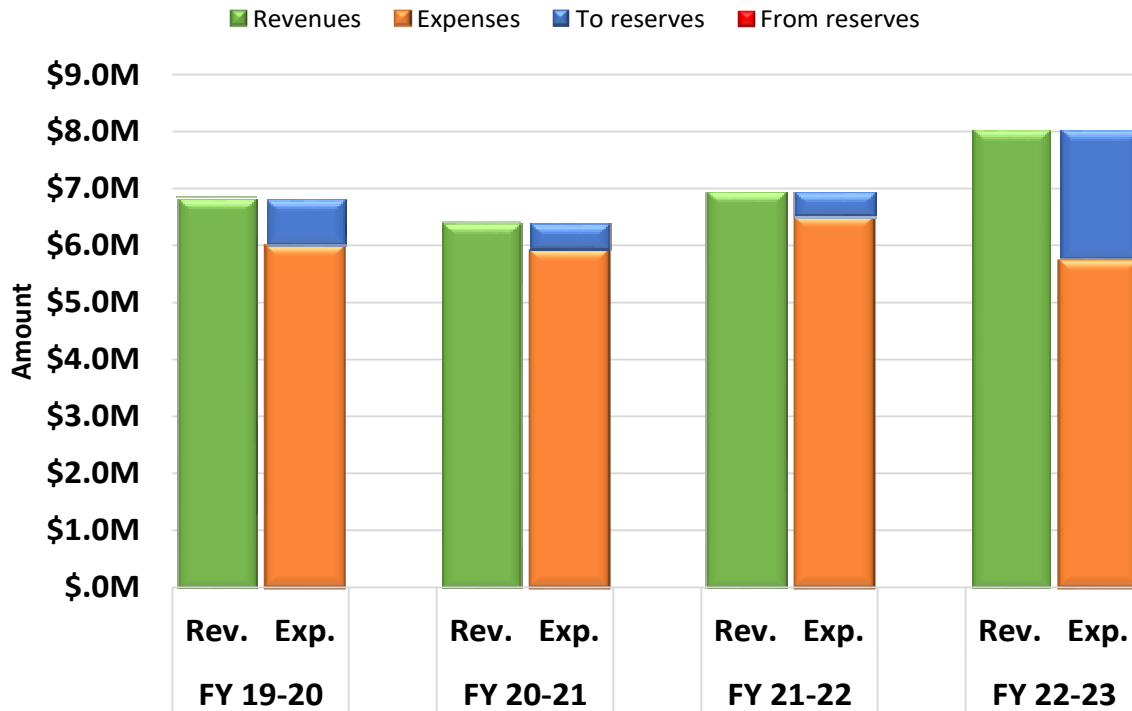
**Budget vs. Actual Expenses**



An additional goal is to have a balanced budget, where revenues equal expenditures, so there is neither a significant deficit nor a significant surplus.

TABLE 18

### Actual Revenues vs. Actual Expenses



The District maintains a Working Capital and Reserve Fund that consists of an Operating Working Capital, a Capital Improvement Working Capital, and a Capital Reserve.

The target for the *Operating Working Capital* is equal to 60% of operating and maintenance costs. This level of funding is intended to adjust annually to equal the District’s budgeted costs from May to December, reflecting the lag in the collection of sewer service charges from the County tax roll.

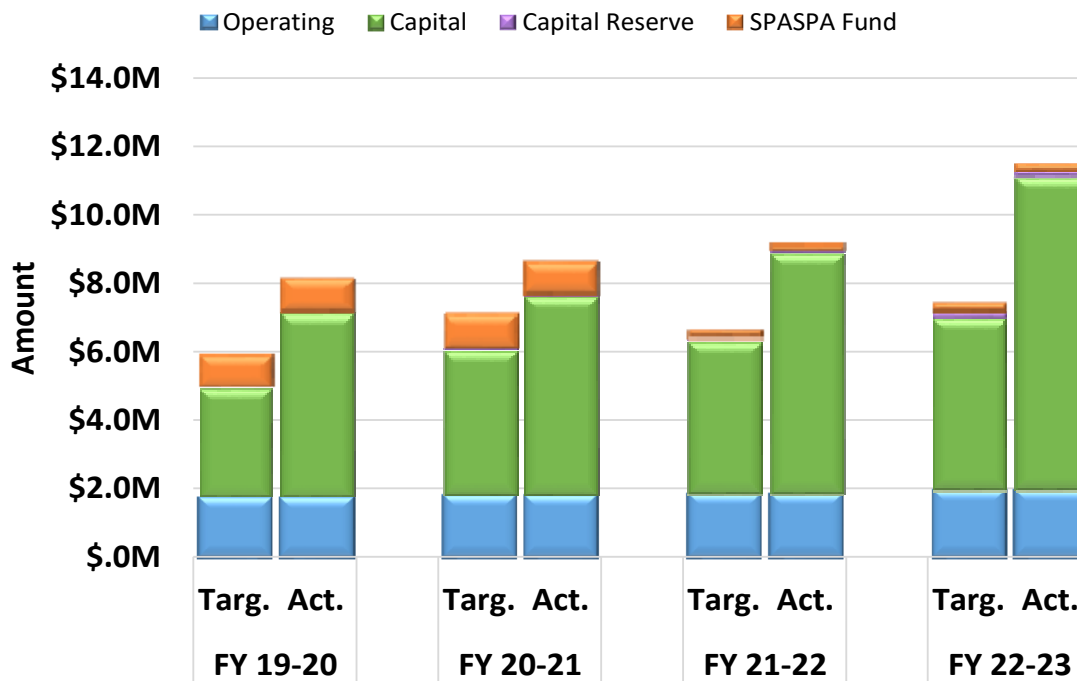
The target for the *Capital Improvement Working Capital* is equal to the 3-year average of the annual capital cost (i.e. average of the previous, current, and future year capital cost) plus the annual debt service cost to ensure that the District has adequate funds available on an annual basis to conduct sewer pipeline replacements or in case of an emergency or natural disaster

such as an earthquake. The *Capital Reserve*, or set-aside, of \$45,000 per year is accumulated over time and used every five to ten years for major improvements such as Administration Building retrofits.

Beginning in 2018, a separate *San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Area (SPASPA) Fund* began collecting impact fees for localized sewer capacity improvements needed to serve projected development along the San Pablo Avenue corridor. This impact fee is charged to developers for new development within the SPASPA.

TABLE 19

**Working Capital and Reserve Fund Target vs. Actual Amount (Accrual Basis)**



**ASSESSMENT:** For FY 2022-23, actual expenses were 25% less than the forecasted budget amount as shown in Table 17 and 40% less than actual revenues as shown in Table 18. This net gain was added to the fiscal year end amount increasing it to 155% of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund Target goal of \$7.5 million, as shown in the Table 19. Although the District currently exceeds its fund targets, upcoming capital equipment purchases (combination

vacuum and hydro jetting truck) and projects (Canon Pump Station), retirement funding requirements, and estimated 3% annual inflation will reduce the District's fund reserves over time.\*

*\* Per Connection Charge and SPASPA Impact Fee Study by Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants, May 2019*

### Sewer Service Charge

The District’s Sewer Service Charge covers the cost of the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements to the sanitary sewer system. The goal is to provide a high level of service that is both cost effective and efficient while trying to maintain a sewer service charge less than the median of the other East Bay agencies.

TABLE 20

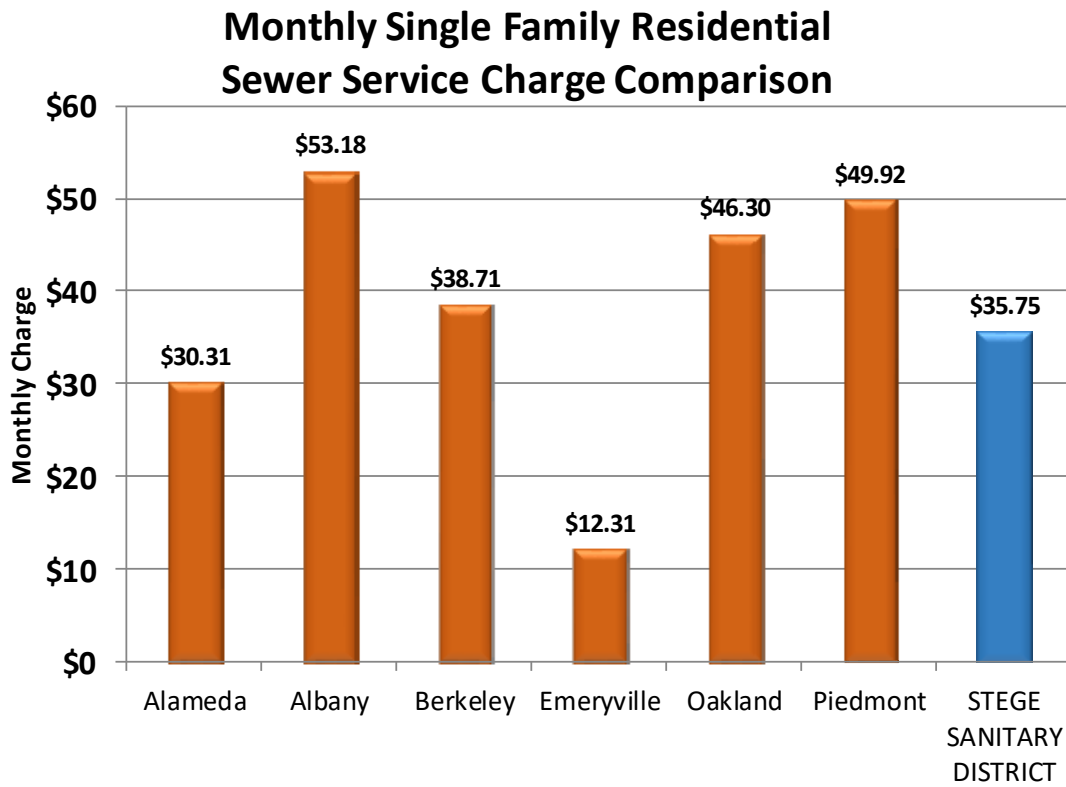
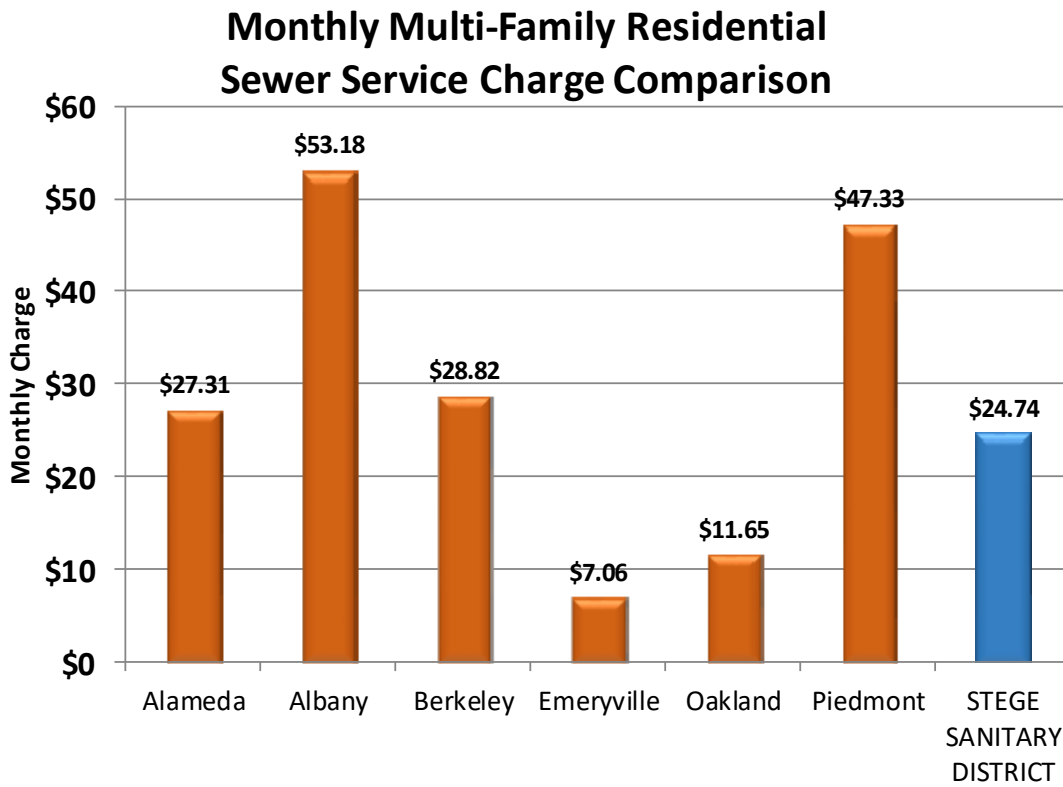




TABLE 21



**ASSESSMENT:** The District continues to be in a strong financial position moving forward through FY 2023-24. The District will continue with an updated financial plan that will be outlined in an upcoming Sewer Rate Study to ensure long-term financial stability while minimizing rate impacts on customers and continuing to keep the District’s sewer service charge, as shown on Table 20 and 21, less than the median of the other East Bay agencies.