



# THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Winter 2022

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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## Sewer Problems? Call Us First!

**S**low drains? Water backing up into your home? The problem might be a clog in your lateral—the private sewer line that runs from your home to the public sewer main—or the problem might be in the sewer main itself. **Call us before you call a plumber.**

The District maintains a 24/7 emergency hotline that is always answered by a person, not a recording. The number is (510) 524-4667. If needed, we will send out a crew to inspect and let you know if you need a plumber. The inspection is free and we try to respond within one hour of your call.

*If you call a plumber before calling us, you may be responsible for any charges from your plumber, even if the problem turns out to be in the sewer main. **S***

## INTEREST-FREE PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL REPLACEMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Go to [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org) for details

## Don't Connect Roof or Yard Drains to the Sewer System

**T**he Stege Sanitary District is responsible for the collection and transport of wastewater from homes, schools, and businesses within its boundaries to the EBMUD wastewater treatment plant in Oakland. These areas employ a separate storm drain system that collects rainwater runoff from streets and deposits the water into creeks that eventually lead to San Francisco Bay.

It's important that homeowners do not pipe rainwater, either from house gutters or a sump pump, into the sanitary sewer system. The District's wastewater system is not designed to handle the large volume of runoff from a rainstorm. Overflows of the wastewater sewers might occur if rainwater is diverted into this system. Rainwater should be directed into the street, ground, or directly to the storm drain system.

Piping rainwater into the sewer system violates District, federal, and local ordinances. Penalties and fines may be imposed for these violations.

If you see a maintenance hole overflowing in the street immediately call the District at (510) 524-4667 and we will promptly send a maintenance team to evaluate the situation. **S**






## Holiday Food Drive and Toy Program



**S**tege Sanitary District will again collect food donations for Thanksgiving and toys for the Holiday Toy Program.

Food donations can be dropped off in the collection barrel in the lobby of the District office on Schmidt Lane. Bring tomato sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, dried beans, rice, peanut butter, and other canned foods to the office Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Friday until 4:00 pm.



New, unwrapped toys and monetary donations to the Holiday Toy Program can be dropped off at the District office anytime of the year. Toys for pre-teens and teens, including board games, puzzles, and balls, are especially needed. 




## Recycle Used Cooking Oil


**D**eep-frying a turkey this year? Don't pour the cooking oil down the drain. Instead, recycle it.

When Fats, Oil, or Grease (FOG) is washed down the drain, it sticks around, clogging household plumbing, the home sewer lateral, and even the sewer main.

Blockages in your home's sewer lateral can cause wastewater to back up into your home, resulting in messy and expensive cleanup costs and repairs. Overflowing maintenance hole in the street can cause environmental damage and pose health risks.

Stege customers can recycle used cooking oil at the El Cerrito Recycling Center at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, which is next door to the Stege Sanitary District main office. For more information on recycling cooking oil, go to [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) and search for "residential cooking oil and grease drop-off." For a free brochure on how to keep pipes FOG-free, call EBMUD at (510) 287-1651. 

## Sewer Service Charge

Sewer service charges cover the cost of operating and maintaining the sanitary sewer system. Stege Sanitary District collects and delivers sanitary wastewater to EBMUD for treatment. EBMUD charges a separate fee for wastewater treatment. Sewer service charges are collected through the annual property tax bills issued by the County. The line item STEGE SEWER CHG are the fees assessed to your property by Stege Sanitary District. 

| SPECIAL TAXES & ASSESSMENTS |           |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| DESCRIPTION                 | CODE      | INFORMATION           | AMOUNT          |
| WCCUSD PARCEL TAX           | * CL      | (844) 332-0549        | \$150.90        |
| STRM DRAIN RECONST          | DA        | (800) 676-7516        | \$58.00         |
| MOSQUITO & VECTOR           | DV        | (925) 867-3400        | \$3.12          |
| EMERGENCY MED B             | DY        | (925) 608-5454        | \$10.00         |
| AC TRANSIT PCL TX           | FA        | (800) 273-5167        | \$96.00         |
| FED STORMWATER A-5          | IH        | (925) 313-2023        | \$38.00         |
| SFBRA PCL TAX               | IB        | (888) 508-8157        | \$12.00         |
| WCCUSD ASSESSMENT           | JA        | (800) 273-5167        | \$72.00         |
| EL CER SWIM CTR TX          | JO        | (800) 676-7516        | \$58.46         |
| <b>STEGE SEWER CHG</b>      | <b>JX</b> | <b>(510) 524-4668</b> | <b>\$383.00</b> |
| EASTBAY TRAILS LLD          | * KA      | (888) 512-0316        | \$5.44          |
| EBMD WET WEATHER            | KO        | (866) 403-2683        | \$180.74        |
| EL CERRITO ST LT            | MZ        | (800) 676-7516        | \$72.00         |
| WCC HEALTH-PRCL TX          | NR        | (866) 807-6864        | \$52.00         |

# Stege Sanitary District Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy

The Stege Sanitary District is committed to minimizing negative impacts on public health and the environment through responsible practices that recognize that the products and services the District procures have inherent environmental and economic impacts. The District makes procurement decisions that promote and encourage the District's commitment to protecting the public's health and the environment and supports goals of sustainability.



The purpose of this policy is to encourage the purchase and use of materials, products, and services that best align with the District's fiscal, performance, and environmental goals. This includes reducing the environmental impacts from District use of products, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, reduction of landfill waste, health and safety risks, and resource consumption.


This policy complements the District Code and District Procurement Policy and applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. 

Image: Freepic.com

## Shop Local

Want to enjoy the connection of knowing the people behind the businesses in your community? Want to support your community by cycling funds back into the local economy? Want to reduce environmental impact by creating less traffic and air pollution? Shop local businesses! It's good for your community; it's good for the environment; and it will make you feel good. 




**Shop Local**




## Reminders

### Plumbing Contractors


For a list of plumbing contractors registered to work on private sewer laterals in the District, visit [www.stegesd.org](http://www.stegesd.org). Stege recommends getting at least three bids before starting work. 

### Put Wipes in the Trash, Not the Toilet

Disposable "flushable" wipes don't disintegrate in water. Instead they accumulate in sewers where they can cause a sewer overflow into your home or into the street. Put all wipes where they belong—in the trash, not in the toilet. 




### PSL Compliance Certificate

Property owners who are selling their property or are doing a major remodel or are changing the size of their water meters are required to get a certificate from EBMUD stating that their private sewer lateral (PSL) is in good repair. See [eastbaypsl.com](http://eastbaypsl.com) for more information. For information on a District interest-free loan program to replace your PSL, go to [www.stegesd.org](http://www.stegesd.org). 

### 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.



Not sure if you have a BPD or if you need one? Contact the District at (510) 524-4668 to make an appointment for a free inspection. 





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

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
OAKLAND, CA  
Permit No. 544

**To Contact Us:** 24/7 Phone: (510) 524-4667 Email: [staff@stegesan.org](mailto:staff@stegesan.org) Web: [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org) Twitter: @StegeSan

Per AB 361, public meetings will continue to be held virtually.


## INTEREST-FREE PSL REPLACEMENT LOAN PROGRAM

**Replace your cracked Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) with an interest-free loan from Stege Sanitary District**

If your home was built before 1970, there is a good chance your private sewer lateral needs to be replaced. Even newer homes can have cracked pipes from earth movement and tree root intrusion. A plumber will be able to determine if your lateral needs replacement. Many plumbers provide free esti-

mates for their work. Always get at least three estimates before deciding on a plumber.

To help property owners replace their PSLs, Stege Sanitary District has launched the PSL Replacement Loan Program. Through this program, owners can borrow up to \$10,000 to replace their private

sewer lateral. The loan is interest-free and repayable over ten years. Property owners repay the loan through their yearly property tax bill. There is no prepayment penalty. For more information and an application, go to [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). Loans will be made until there are no longer any funds. 

## Spotlight on Service

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy

Stege Sanitary District is committed to a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect. The individual differences that employees bring to their work represent a significant part of not only the District's culture, but the District's reputation and achievement.

The District is committed to equal opportunity employment based on merit, competence,

performance, and business need; to providing a work environment free from discrimination and harassment; to providing a climate that is welcoming and conducive to the success of all employees; and to encouraging staff to be sufficiently educated on the subjects of diversity, equity, and inclusion and to be better able to recognize and prevent all types of prejudice and bias. 