



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 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beatrice O'Keefe
President

Dwight Merrill
Vice President

Juliet Christian-Smith
Director

Paul Gilbert-Snyder
Director

Alan C. Miller
Director

DISTRICT MANAGER/ ENGINEER

Rex Delizo, P.E.

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.

INSIDE

Project Updates 2

Don't connect Roof or
Yard Drains to Sewer
System 2

Sewer Service
Charge 2

Holiday Food Drive and
Toy Program 3

Recycle Used
Cooking Oil 3

Don't Forget 3

Spotlight on Service
District Wins
Two Awards 4



Sewer Problems? Call Us First!

Slow 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***

Stege Sanitary District 2022 Board of Directors Election



Stege Sanitary District is an independent Special District of the State of California. It is a public agency administered by a duly-elected five member Board of Directors. Directors are elected at-large by District residents and serve four-year terms of office. In 2022, three positions on the Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors will be up for election.

The Board is proud of the District's history of inclusion and diversity in the workplace and management. It believes the District best serves the needs of its community when it represents the rich and varied backgrounds of its residents. The Board invites community members to consider running for the office of Stege Sanitary District Director in the upcoming election.

The Board is committed to an open transparent governance. It meets once or twice monthly on a Thursday at 7:00 pm to discuss the business of the District. To learn more about the responsibilities and core beliefs of the Board of Directors, go to https://www.stegesan.org/documents/Board_Manual_2021.pdf.

Candidates must be United States citizens, at least 18 years-of-age, and must reside within the boundaries of the Stege Sanitary District. Procedures, deadlines and nomination papers may be obtained from the County Elections Office:

Contra Costa County Election Division, 555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-7800, www.cocovote.us. **S**



Force main replacement on Cannon Drive

Project Updates

Force Main Replacement

Replacement of the District’s two force mains (pressurized sewer pipes)—one on Burlingame Avenue in the Richmond Annex and the other on Canon Drive in Kensington—was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Much of the credit for the successful completion of the projects goes to neighbors who patiently accepted the disruption a project of this size entails.

Now that the force mains have been replaced, the District is drawing up plans to rehabilitate the pump station on Canon Drive. Pump stations are needed when gravity alone is not enough to convey wastewater to the sanitary system. The Canon Drive pump station was built in 1962 and has undergone only minor updates since then. It now needs significant upgrades to bring it

up to modern standards of safety and reliability. The rehabilitation of the Canon Drive pump station should begin in 2022.

San Pablo Avenue Improvement Plan

The first stage of sewer upgrade to San Pablo Avenue is complete.

A special impact fee to pay for required sewer upgrades in the Improvement Area has been assessed to the area developers. Existing District ratepayers will not see any increase in their sewer charges because of this work.

Standard Sewer Rehabilitation

The District continues to replace aging clay pipes with HDPE pipes. Some of the original clay pipes are 100 years old. The new HDPE pipes are better able to withstand earth movement and repel tree root incursions. **S**



Don’t Connect Roof or Yard Drains to the Sanitary Sewer System

Piping runoff water into your sanitary system, either from house gutters or a sump pump, is illegal. To do so violates District regulations and other federal and local ordinances. Any illegal drain(s) must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer system and re-routed to the appropriate storm drainage system. Please contact the City (or for Kensington, call the County) for assistance with storm runoff requirements. **S**

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. **S**

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
STEGE SEWER CHG	JX	(510) 524-4668	\$341.00
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

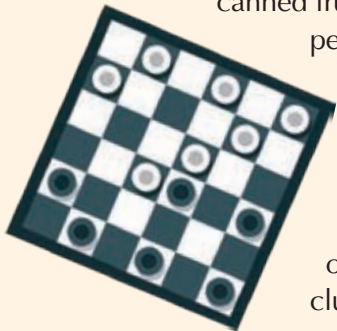


Holiday Food Drive and Toy Program

Stege 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 preteens and teens, including board games, puzzles, and balls, are especially needed.



Recycle Used Cooking Oil

Deep-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, they clog household plumbing, home sewer laterals, and even the sewer main.

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 information on recycling cooking oil, go to www.ebmud.com and search for "residential cooking oil and grease drop-off." For a free brochure on keeping pipes FOG-free, call EBMUD at (510) 287-1651.



Don't Forget

Plumbing Contractors

For a list of plumbing contractors registered to work on private laterals in the District, visit www.stegesan.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.



Online Newsletter

Sign up for the Stege online newsletter by going to www.stegesan.org, or by sending your email address to newsletter@stegesan.org.

Properly Dispose of Unwanted Medications

Medications should never be flushed down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these substances, which may be harmful to the environment. Unwanted medications may be brought to the El Cerrito Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane). Call (510) 215-4350 before coming.



www.stegesan.org

Find the latest announcements; a list of registered plumbing contractors; sewer permit and fee information; Board meeting schedule, minutes, and agenda; and FAQs on the District's website, www.stegesan.org.



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

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 US POSTAGE
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 Oakland, CA
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To Contact Us: 24/7 Phone: (510) 524-4667 Email: staff@stegasan.org Web: www.stegasan.org Twitter: @StegeSan

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

Spotlight on Service

SDLF Recognizes Stege Sanitary District with Two Awards



In 1999, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) was formed to promote and recognize excellence in the governance and management of special districts. It is dedicated to excellence in local government. The organization has recently recognized Stege Sanitary District for its excellence in governance and for its transparency in operation.

District of Distinction

The District was reaccredited as a District of Distinction. The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in the state of California.



In order to win the award, the District had to undergo regular financial audits and conform to all state statutes and regulations. All directors, the general manager and executive staff had to receive training in governance as well as ethics training.

The District has been accredited as a District of Distinction since 2009. 

Transparency Certificate of Excellence

The Stege Sanitary was awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the SDLF in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance



To receive the award, Stege had to complete eight essential governance transparency requirements and at least twenty website requirements, providing readily available information to the public. Finally, the district demonstrated outreach to the public through such activities as newsletters and community programs. 