

## Occidental-to-Airport Wastewater Transport Project

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency), which operates the Occidental County Sanitation District's (District) Wastewater Treatment Facility is continuing the planning process for the District's Wastewater Transport Project.

In September, 2017 the Water Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for review of an Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Occidental County Sanitation District to Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ALWSZ) Wastewater Transport Project. A public Scoping Meeting and Open House was held in June, 2017 to provide the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the scope of the Initial Study. A 30-day public comment period was held from September 29 through October 30, 2017.

The Water Agency prepared the Initial Study on behalf of the District in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Water Agency's Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA. The preliminary analysis of the project's potential environmental impacts determined that a Negative Declaration would be prepared. Following the end of the public comment period on the environmental review, a date will be set for the OCSZ Board of Directors to consider approval of the project.

The District currently discharges recycled water into a pond located at the headwaters of Dutch Bill Creek during the summer and to Dutch Bill Creek during the winter. The Proposed Project would consist of transporting untreated wastewater from the District to the ALWSZ wastewater treatment facility for treatment, storage, and disposal to avoid future discharges into Dutch Bill Creek and potential violations of the District's operating permit.

"This project is designed to protect Dutch Bill Creek and will bring the district into compliance with water quality regulations," said Water Agency Director Lynda Hopkins. "Occidental's small system has economic and environmental challenges, and this is the most cost-effective method to resolve this issue and meet our



regulatory deadline. We appreciate the community's ongoing support and interest."

For more information on the proposed project, or to view the NOA, Initial Study and Negative Declaration, visit [www.sonomacountywater.org/OCSZ](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/OCSZ) or contact Jeff Church at (707) 547-1949 or [jchurch@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:jchurch@scwa.ca.gov).

### Water Rebates in Your Zone

Take advantage of the following water saving programs which are offered on a first-come, first-served basis while funding lasts:

**Clothes Washer** – Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). For more information visit: [www.sonomacountywater.org/rebates](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/rebates)

**Toilet Rebate** – Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models. Download rebate application and learn more at [www.sonomacountywater.org/rebates](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/rebates) or call (707) 547-1918.

#### High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program

A limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits, including toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements, are offered at no cost to eligible properties. For more information, go to: [www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install).



Occidental County Sanitation District  
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

*Because of the devastating fires throughout Sonoma County in October, publication of the semi-annual sanitation newsletters was delayed. We apologize for the delay and our hearts go out to everyone who suffered losses and were impacted by the terrible fires. We want to thank everyone who has worked so hard during this time: emergency responders, rescue workers, volunteers and all those who have assisted in the recovery and rebuilding efforts. We will continue to do our part in protecting the health and safety of our communities by operating reliable sanitation systems.*

## Water Agency Proposes Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance

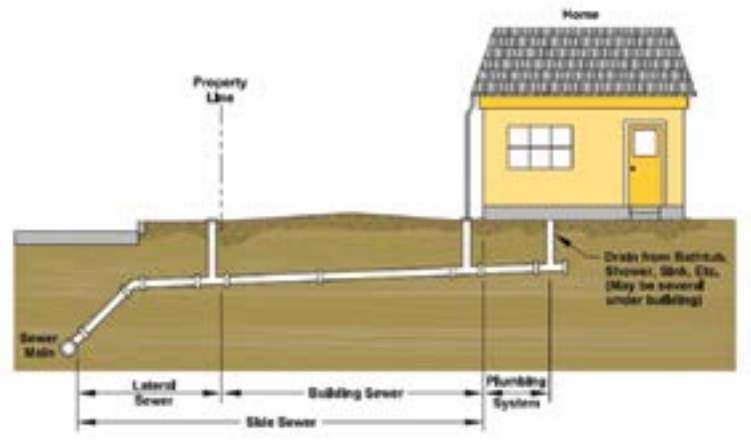
The Water Agency, which manages and operates eight sanitation zones and districts in Sonoma County, is proposing a Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance. The ordinance would provide the Water Agency the ability to inspect, and if necessary, require the repair of sewer laterals that are failing and contributing to pollution and sewer overflows.

The proposed sewer lateral ordinance would not include mandatory inspections or repairs at this time, but would allow the sanitation zones and districts to require repairs if during inspections faulty sewer laterals are detected.

### PURPOSE

The Private Sewer Lateral Ordinance is intended to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer collection system, and prevent sewer overflows. These overflows can pollute creeks and result in fines to the OCSD.

Water entering faulty sewer laterals are one of the sources of storm water that can cause overflows.



### TIMING

The Water Agency anticipates that a proposed ordinance would go the Board of Directors in spring of 2018 and would take effect a year later. Community Meetings will be held prior to Board consideration of the ordinance to receive comments from the community. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors serves as the Board of Directors for the Water Agency and for the OCSD.

### For more information, contact:

Kevin Booker, 707- 521-1865, Kevin.Booker@scwa.ca.gov  
Barry Dugan, 707-547-1930, Barry.Dugan@scwa.ca.gov