

SOUTH PARK COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

NEWS
FALL 2015
Vol. 3, Issue #2

PROTECTING OUR WATER QUALITY STARTS AT HOME

As we enter the wet weather season, we encourage our sanitation customers to keep in mind that protecting water quality is everyone's responsibility and there are many things we can do in our homes to protect waterways and the environment from unnecessary harm.

The Sonoma County Water Agency manages and operates eight sanitation districts and zones throughout the county, providing wastewater collection (and in most cases treatment) for the equivalent of nearly 30,000 homes. Our goal is to protect the health and safety of our customers and the environment — and you can help.

Our crews maintain more than 230 miles of sewer pipelines throughout Sonoma County, pipelines that collect wastewater from your home or business and deliver it to a treatment plant. These workers perform routine sewer mainline cleaning, assess pipeline conditions using video equipment, and perform routine and emergency repairs to sewers and manholes. Last year they cleaned more than 100 miles of pipeline, dug up and repaired 45 damaged pipelines, and inspected 39 miles of sewer pipeline. A total of \$16.1 million was spent on operations and maintenance last year for the eight sanitation districts and zones.

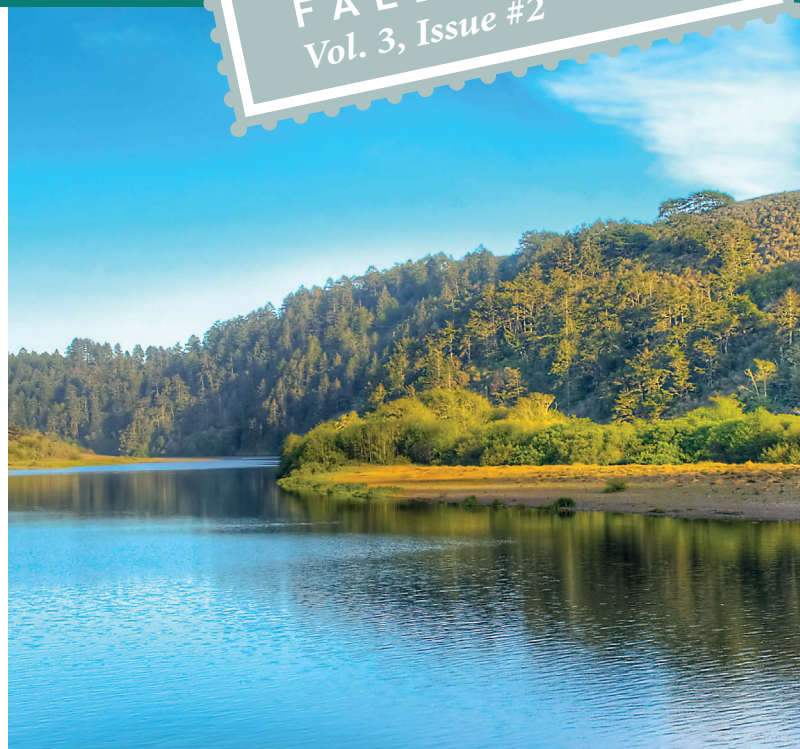
Some of the repairs that are performed are preventable. For instance, sewer lines sometimes back up from grease that gets poured down the drain, or from disposable wipes that are flushed down the toilet. Sewer overflows can have negative impacts on creeks and rivers. In addition, properly disposing of old medicines also protects water quality and aquatic life by making sure that traces of pharmaceuticals don't end up in our water system. See the articles in this newsletter for more details about what you can do to help protect our water quality and environment.

THE TOILET IS NOT A TRASH CAN

Our toilets are designed to dispose of just two things: human waste and toilet paper. All too often, however, people use toilets like a trash can. Using your toilet to dispose of household items, such as paper towels, dental floss, hair and pet waste bags can damage your plumbing and lead to sewer pipe backups.

One modern culprit is the so-called "flushable" wipe product. While they may be flushable in the sense that they will go down the toilet, they can accumulate in sewer pipes and cause blockages or cause damage to pumps. Tests have shown that "flushable" wipes do not degrade readily like toilet paper.

Aside from the misleading "flushable" culprits, many modern products like paper towels, dental floss, hair, and pet waste bags will often lead to the same damaging result. To prevent sewer system blockage and equipment damage, keep it simple and keep the trash in the trash.



HELP KEEP OUR SEWERS FAT-FREE

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can lead to unpleasant odors and blockages in sewer pipes. Grease can also build up in your pipes from food scraps, even if they are put down the garbage disposal.

Please take note of the following suggestions to keep sewer pipes "Fat-Free":

- Never pour fats, oils, or cooking grease down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Place food scraps in appropriate waste containers or compost piles rather than into the drain or garbage disposal.
- Pour excess grease into a container with a tight fitting lid and freeze for disposal with your household garbage; and wipe the remaining grease from the pan with a scraper or paper towel.

For more information on the recycling or proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, contact the Eco-Desk at 707-565-3375 or go to www.recyclenow.org.



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

REBATES:

Residences in the South Park County Sanitation District may qualify for a number of free programs and rebates that are offered through the City of Santa Rosa (City) and the State of California. The City offers the following rebate programs and free water-saving equipment for South Park residents with City water service:

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer: Replace your inefficient washing machine with a High-Efficiency machine! Receive a rebate for the purchase of a qualifying machine.

Recirculating Hot Water Pump: Easy to install and heats up your water with the touch of a button. It keeps the cold water in the pipe until it reaches the desired temperature. Pre-inspection and receipt required for rebate.

Cash for Grass: Transform the underutilized grass at your home or business into a low water use landscape. Pre-inspection required for rebate.

Irrigation Upgrade: Improve the efficiency of your existing irrigation system. Pre-inspection required for rebate.

Graywater Reuse: Graywater is collected from showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks and clothes washing machines. Graywater can be rerouted to your landscape to help meet your irrigation needs and reduce your monthly water bill. You actually get to use your water twice, and only pay for it once! Pre-inspection or workshop is required for rebate. A permit may be required.

Rainwater Harvesting: Capture and reuse rainwater in your landscape. With every inch of rain that we receive you can collect over 600 gallons per 1,000 square feet of rooftop. That will really add up to a lot of water that you can use in your garden! Pre-inspection required.

Sustained Reduction: Receive a rebate for every 1,000 gallons of sustained monthly water savings.

FREE SERVICES AND PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS CUSTOMERS:

Free WaterSmart Audit – Free on-site review of your indoor and outdoor water use and customized water saving recommendations performed by water use efficiency experts.

Free water saving products – Showerheads, kitchen and bath sink aerators, garden hose nozzles, and dye tabs to check for toilet leaks are available for free at Water Administration– 69 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa.

For more information on available rebates and service please visit srcity.org/wue

The State also offers rebates for high-efficiency toilets and turf replacement. Information is available at: <http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com>.



Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community

www.sonomacountywater.org/SPCSD

