

GEYSERVILLE SANITATION ZONE NEWS

INSIDE FALL 2013

- 2 Budget Update
- 2 How to Contact Your Board
- 2 Efficiency Programs
- 3 Employee Spotlight
- 3 FOG
- 4 Watch What You Flush



A wind turbine at the Geyserville Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment Plant is helping the Zone and the Sonoma County Water Agency reach the goal of delivering carbon free water by 2015. For more information, visit www.sonomacountywater.org/geyserville-wind-turbine.

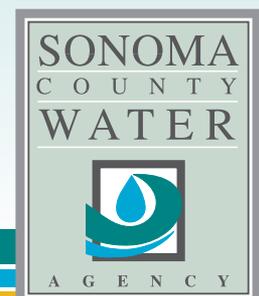


About Your Sanitation Zone

During a 1995 restructuring of the Sonoma County government, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) assumed responsibility for managing and operating 11 different sanitation districts and zones. Currently the Water Agency manages and operates eight different sanitation districts and zones throughout Sonoma County, including the Geyserville Sanitation Zone (Zone).

The Zone began operation in 1978 and currently serves 337 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 177-acre service area.

The Zone's treatment facility has a design capacity of up to 92,000 gallons per day (average daily dry weather flow) and treats wastewater to a secondary treatment level. Recycled water from this treatment plant is disposed through percolation and evaporation. ●



www.sonomacountywater.org/geyserville-sanitation-zone

High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program

The Zone offers a limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits at no cost to all properties with active sewer connections.



The High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program includes:

- Replacement of at least one high-flush toilet (3.5 gallons per flush or more) with a new high-efficiency toilet (1.1 gallons per flush or less) from the list of Qualifying Toilet Models or
- Replacement of at least one urinal (1.0 gallons per flush or more) with a high-efficiency urinal (0.125 gallons per flush or less) from the list of Qualifying Urinal Models.

In addition, the program offers free:

- Replacement of all high-flow faucet aerators with new high-efficiency models (2.0, 1.5 or 0.5 gallons per minute) and
- Replacement of all high-flow showerheads with new high-efficiency models (1.5 gallons per minute).

To participate, you must register your property on the program wait list. Properties will be selected on a first come, first served basis based on funding availability. For more information or to register, go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install to sign up on the waiting list or call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918. ●

Water Efficiency Rebate Program

Zone customers may participate in the following Rebate Program:

Clothes Washer Rebate – Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all “Tier 3” listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

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.

Rebates on high-efficiency clothes washers and toilets are available on a first come, first served basis through June 30,

2014, while funding lasts. For more information, call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918 or go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates. ●

Budget Update

The budget year starts on July 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year.

For Zone customers, the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 flat rate fee is \$854 per year per “equivalent single-family dwelling” (ESD).

For more information, contact Manuel Olvera, Engineering Technician III, or Candi Bryon, Department Analyst, at 707.526.5370. ●

How to Contact Your Board

The Zone’s Board of Directors is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Your Board members and their e-mail addresses include the following:

- First District Supervisor/Director Susan Gorin – Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org
- Second District Supervisor/Director David Rabbitt – David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org
- Third District Supervisor/Director Shirlee Zane – Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org
- Fourth District Supervisor/Director Mike McGuire – MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org
- Fifth District Supervisor/Director Efren Carrillo – Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org

Directors may also be contacted by phone: 707.565.2241 and fax: 707.565.3778.

The Board normally holds its regular meetings on Tuesdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information, go online to www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors. ●

Employee Spotlight: Senior Plant Operator Brings ‘Sense of Community’ to Her Job

Lucia Kasulis first worked as an accountant at the Water Agency before getting the bug to enroll in an apprenticeship course and take classes to become trained as a plant operator. She was hired by the Water Agency in 1998 and has been a senior plant operator for more than 10 years. One part of a 14-member operator team, Lucia earned and passed the required Grade III certifications from both the California Department of Public Health and State Water Resources Control Board to perform the Water Agency’s dual role of providing both drinking water and wastewater services.



Senior plant operators operate and maintain water distribution, water and wastewater treatment plant equipment and machinery; monitor and adjust water and wastewater treatment processes; maintain safe and proper reservoir levels; and coordinate potable water storage, usage and allotments. Their job duties

also include performing arithmetic calculations and computing volumes and percentages using both standard and metric systems, conducting chemical tests in the lab, and the operation and routine maintenance of computerized instrumentation and plant operational equipment.

Lucia reinforced that Water Agency employees work around the clock 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to be available to respond to calls on both water supply and sanitation emergencies at the Water Agency’s 24-hour emergency hotline at 707.523.1070. “We are always here,” she said. ●

Stormwater Inflow

“Stormwater inflow” is a term that refers to excessive rainwater, especially occurring during heavy storms, that rapidly flows into the wastewater system via roof drain downspouts, clean-out caps that aren’t put on correctly, broken or cracked sewer pipelines, and leaky manhole covers. When stormwater enters the wastewater system, it must be treated like sanitary waste, resulting in higher treatment costs. Also, sewer backups and overflows that harm the environment may occur.

You can help prevent stormwater inflow by inspecting roof gutters and downspouts. Disconnect them if they are connected to the sewer system. Instead, direct downspouts onto yards and gardens. Also, please report loose manhole covers by calling the Water Agency’s 24-hour emergency hotline at 707.523.1070. ●

Social Media Opens Up Communications

The Water Agency has an active social media communications program, including a website with a special section for Zone customers at www.sonomacountywater.org/geyserville-sanitation-zone. ●

Never Pour FOG Down Sink

You can do your part to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease, referred to as “FOG”.

FOG, which among other items includes frying and cooking oils, salad dressings, soups, meat trimmings and bacon fat, often gets washed into the public sewer system through the kitchen sink. FOG should never be poured down the drain because it can adhere to the insides of household and local sewer pipes, clog them and cause sewer backups, and/or overflows into the environment, and increased customer sewer rates to pay for sewer maintenance and plumbing repairs.



A sewer line clogged with fat and grease.

Your Zone provides FREE grease scrapers to help you keep FOG from going down the drain. Call the Water Agency Public Affairs Hotline at 707.524.6430. ●

Geyserville Sanitation Zone
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa CA 95403

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Watch What You Flush

To keep household and community sewer systems operating around the clock with maintenance costs kept to a minimum, your Zone asks customers to please do not use their toilets as trash cans. To put it as tactfully as possible, human waste and toilet paper should be all that's flushed down the toilet.

Topping the list of the biggest offenders that should never be flushed down the toilet (even if the product's packaging says "flushable" or "disposable") are wet wipes, diapers, dental floss, facial tissues, paper towels, coffee grounds, sanitary products (including plastic tampon applicators), underwear, toys, medicine and medications, makeup, hair, seeds, grease, kitty box litter and cigarette butts.

The Water Agency and other partners sponsor the Safe Medicine Disposal Program to allow for the safe disposal of unused and unwanted medications. To find the closest drop-off location to you, visit www.safemedicinedisposal.org or contact Susan Keach, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at 707.521.1820 or susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov. ●

Compliance with Public Health, Environmental Regulations

Wide-ranging regulatory standards for public health and the environment are set by the California State Water Resources Control Board and in turn implemented through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). The Zone operates under a unique, individualized permit from the North Coast RWQCB that sets the requirements for wastewater operations. Complying with these requirements result in Zone capital improvement projects and increased rates. For more information about the California Water Boards, go to this website link: www.waterboards.ca.gov. ●

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

www.sonomacountywater.org

