

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

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## SEA RANCH SANITATION ZONE NEWS

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The Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone aeration basin shown above.

### High-Efficiency Fixture 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 toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements.

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](http://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:

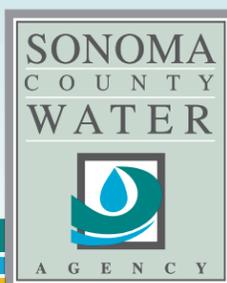
**Clothes Washer Rebate** – Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all “Tier 3” listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

**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](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates). ●

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

[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)



### About Your Sanitation Zone



Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone Service Area

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 Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone (Zone).

The Zone, operated by the Sea Ranch Water Company, consists of two wastewater collection and treatment systems and currently serves 544 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 4,600-acre service area.

The Central Plant, which began operating in 1971, is designed to treat average daily dry weather flows of up to 27,000 gallons per day. Treated wastewater is used for irrigation.

The North Plant, which began operating in 1972, is designed to treat average daily dry weather flows of up to 160,000 gallons per day. The North Plant's secondary wastewater is sent to the Gualala Community Services District Treatment Plant where it is treated to tertiary standards then used to irrigate the Sea Ranch Golf Links.

High-quality tertiary treated recycled water is an important source of water and its use offsets potable water demands. ●

[www.sonomacountywater.org/sea-ranch-sanitation-zone](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/sea-ranch-sanitation-zone)



## Water Agency Participates in Tri-Party Presentation Tour

Under a cooperative Tri-Party Agreement (Agreement) signed in 1991, the Sea Ranch North Sanitation Zone, Sea Ranch Golf Links and Gualala Community Services District (GCSD) began working together on sanitary treatment plants and processes, along with other issues.

Recently the Water Agency, Sea Ranch Golf Links and GCSD participated in a discussion and tour about the operational challenges and their solutions; an update on the current operations strategy and its benefits; and a look ahead at what's next. The briefing also included a discussion on past and present treatment operations.

The Tri-party members operations strategy offers improved operational capabilities with reprogrammed filters and periodic extended backwashes, replacement of inoperative valves in the Sea Ranch North Treatment Plant (SRNTP) pipe

gallery, a new pipeline to receive GCSD tertiary recycled water to the storage pond, and the conversion of the reservoir from secondary to tertiary (advanced treatment).

Among the benefits of the storage conversion from secondary to tertiary are: 1) the elimination of permitted discharge from the SRNTP and minimized GCSD process impacts, including the elimination of algae and less temperature differential and 2) the percolation pond can now be available to receive tertiary treated water from GCSD instead of the secondary treated water.

Future capital improvement projects include completing the conversion of SRNTP's reservoir to tertiary, SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) upgrades at GCSD, storm and emergency storage for raw sewage, re-permitting and an update to the Agreement. ●

## 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov). ●

## 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 \$982 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. ●

## 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/sea-ranch-sanitation-zone](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/sea-ranch-sanitation-zone). ●

## 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](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)
- Second District Supervisor/Director David Rabbitt — [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)
- Third District Supervisor/Director Shirlee Zane — [Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org)
- Fourth District Supervisor/Director Mike McGuire — [MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org](mailto:MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org)
- Fifth District Supervisor/Director Efren Carrillo — [Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto: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](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors). ●

## Employee Spotlight: Sanitation Crew Member Provides Key Operations & Maintenance Role

Troy Winton has been a member of the Water Agency Sanitation Crew as a Maintenance Worker III for four years. He is on a team of seven full-time employees that maintains more than 230 miles of sewer pipeline in Sonoma County. "In 2006 I was hired on here," Troy said. "It's been great ever since."



After earning an associate degree from Santa Rosa Junior College, Troy took classes through the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) to receive his Collection System Maintenance Grade III certification. "We have to keep up on our contact hours and credentials," he said, referring to the continuing education required in his job.

As a member of the sanitation crew, his work responsibilities exclusively involve the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the sanitation and recycled water lines. Over the course of a day, he may be repairing or replacing broken pipes, cleaning pipes and drains, or conducting video inspections of lines.

On a daily basis when he's out on job sites, he said he interacts with members of the public who are curious about his activities - whether he's cleaning lines or repairing a hole in a pipe. "It's great talking to people," he said. ●

## 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](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org) or contact Susan Keach, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at 707.521.1820 or [susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov). ●

## Stormwater Inflow

"Stormwater inflow" is a term that refers to excessive rainwater, especially occurring during heavy storms. 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.

## 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. ●

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. ●