

# Frequently Asked Questions

## SEWAGE BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

### What is a sewage backflow prevention device?

A sewage backflow prevention device prevents sewage from flowing backwards from the public sewer into a home or business. A sewage backflow prevention device is required for properties that have plumbing lower than the public sewer system as a condition for connection to the District's sewer main. If the sewage backflow prevention device has not been maintained or has been damaged or buried, sewage from the District's sewer main could flow backwards into a home or business. Call a plumber or the District if you cannot locate or are not confident that your sewage backflow prevention device is in good working condition. If you are not sure if you need a sewage backflow prevention device, call the District at (408) 253-7071.

## PRIVATE SEWAGE PUMPS

### When is a private sewage pump required?

A private sewage pump is required with all new building construction and or major remodeling projects where the lowest floor with plumbing fixtures is less than one foot above the rim elevation of the nearest upstream manhole. Prior to obtaining a building permit, the owner must provide the District with a certificate sealed by a Registered Civil Engineer fixing the lowest finished floor elevation to the rim of the nearest upstream manhole. In addition, a standard gravity sewer lateral is required for connection to the District main and there should be an air gap and a cleanout at the point of connection. Installation, maintenance and repair costs associated with a private sewage pump are the responsibility of the property owner.

## SEWER LATERALS AND CLEANOUTS

### Who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of sewer laterals and cleanouts?

The District provides maintenance and repair of sewer laterals within the public street provided there is an accessible and serviceable cleanout at the property line. Maintenance and repair of the private house sewer lateral, cleanout, and point-of-connection to the street lateral are the responsibility of the property owner.

## VIDEO INSPECTION

### Why is video inspection of sewer lateral connections required for new construction and major remodeling?

Video inspection of the sewer lateral is required for new structure construction and major remodeling to verify that the sewer lateral is in good working condition. When connecting to an existing lateral, two video inspections are required: one at the beginning of construction to determine the condition of the existing lateral, and a second video inspection is required to confirm that connection of new construction to the existing lateral is in compliance with District requirements.

Where can I find more information about my sewer system?

Visit <http://www.cupertinosanitarydistrict.com>

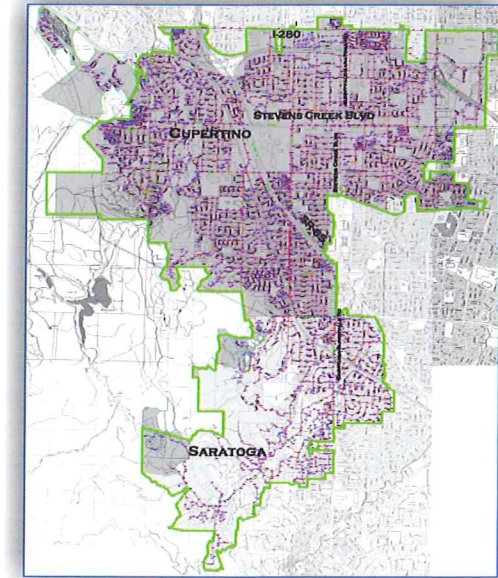
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20833 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 104  
Cupertino, California 95014

# Cupertino Sanitary District

# 2010 Annual Report





## Cupertino Sanitary District Annual Report

We are pleased to present this Annual Report of the Cupertino Sanitary District (CuSD) recognizing 54 years of service to over 23,000 customers within the communities of Cupertino, portions of Saratoga, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and unincorporated areas within Santa Clara County.

### Our Mission

Protect the public health and environment

Provide for safe and cost-efficient collection of sewage waste within CuSD

Provide for effective conveyance to the Treatment Plant

CuSD covers approximately 15 square miles, serving a population of over 50,000 people with more than 23,000 residential and business units. The District owns and manages over 1 million lineal feet of sewer mains, 0.5 million lineal feet of sewer laterals, 17 pump stations, 4000 manholes and flushing inlets, and one equipment storage facility. CuSD conveys nearly 5 million gallons of wastewater daily from its customers for treatment at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant.

CuSD's collection system, much of which is more than 40 years old, has been maintained proactively with regular cleaning and development of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) aimed at improving efficiency as well as extending its useful service life. Last fiscal year, we completed and accomplished the following:

- Maintained over 700,000 feet of sewer mains
- Acquired Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) at our 17 pump stations to automate equipment monitoring
- Implemented Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Inspections with food service establishments to reduce sanitary sewer overflow (SSO's) caused by excessive grease
- Purchased closed-circuit camera to implement a Lateral Inspection Program



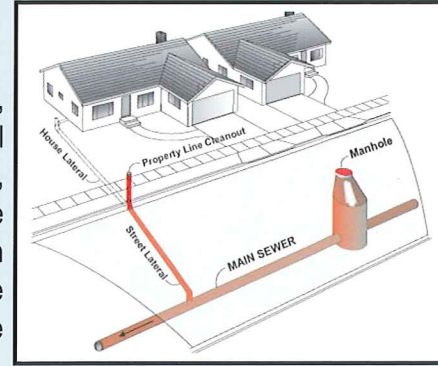
In line with the District's mission of protecting public health and the environment, CuSD has prepared a sewer system management plan (SSMP) that defines the tasks necessary for the District to effectively manage and maintain its wastewater collection system. This document combines several management system elements into one comprehensive plan to:

- Minimize or eliminate the impact of SSO's to receiving waters
- Economically operate and administrate the system in the public trust
- Maintain and improve the infrastructure to assure continued serviceability

## STEPS TO TAKE WHEN THE PLUMBING IN YOUR HOUSE BACKS UP OR DOES NOT DRAIN NORMALLY:

### FIRST, DETERMINE IF ALL FIXTURES ARE AFFECTED.

If only some of the fixtures are affected, stoppage will probably be in the internal house plumbing. If all fixtures are affected, the stoppage will probably be in the house lateral, street lateral or possibly the main sewer. To help locate the problem area, the property line Clean-out Plug should be removed.



If, when this plug is removed, sewage is not visible in the Clean-out riser or sewage does not overflow, the problem is probably in the house lateral and it is the responsibility of the property owner to have the stoppage eliminated.

If, when the Clean-out Plug is removed, sewage is visible in the Clean-out riser or sewage overflows, the problem is probably in the street lateral or the main sewer and the District should be called. The District will clean the street lateral, at District expense, provided a Property Line Clean-out has been previously installed by the owner as shown above. If no accessible Clean-out exists at the front yard, District forces will not be able to clear the street lateral and the owner will be responsible for maintenance or emergency stoppages for both the house and street laterals to the main sewer.

In the event of an overflow of the Property Line Clean-out, or when water is observed flowing in the street from a sewer manhole, **CALL US FIRST** to report a sewer stoppage or overflow.

### 24 Hour Emergency Phone Numbers to report Sewer Stoppages:

Phone: (408) 253-7071  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday thru Friday)

Phone: (408) 299-2507  
After Hours Emergencies (County Communications)

## 2010-2011 Operating Budget

CuSD's approved operating budget is \$11 million, of which \$5.9 million is the CuSD share of the capitalization, operation and maintenance (O&M) of the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant. This amount represents more than half of the District's total budget. The balance is spent for District maintenance and capital outlays.

TYPE OF CLASSIFICATION	BUDGET
CuSD Capital Outlay	\$ 1,600,000
CuSD O&M	\$ 3,555,000
Treatment Plant Capital	\$ 2,140,000
Treatment Plant O&M	\$ 3,809,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,104,000</b>



### \$1.6 Million 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Projects and Equipment Acquisition includes:

1. Florence Pump Station Upgrade
2. Tantau Pump Station Upgrade
3. Prospect Pump Station Upgrade
4. Purchase Generators for the Pump Stations
5. Complete the Cristo Rey Pump Station Project

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendell H. Kerr, Jr. – President

Christopher C. Lee - Secretary

Steve C. Andrews – Director ■ John M. Gatto – Director ■ William A. Bosworth – Director

### STAFF

Harold S. Toppel, District Counsel (*Atkinson-Farasyn, LLP*)

Richard K. Tanaka, District Manager - Engineer (*Mark Thomas & Company, Inc.*)

### BOARD MEETINGS

First and Third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM in the District Board Room, 20833 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 104, Cupertino, California 95014

It is CuSD's pleasure to serve you. Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have any questions and we look forward to serving you in 2010-2011.