



# THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

Summer 2021

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Rex Delizo, P.E.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To protect public health and the environment for the communities we serve through planning and operation of a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection system.

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## Stege Wins Collection System of the Year Award

Stege Sanitary District has once again won the California Water Environment Association (CWEA), San Francisco Bay Small Collection System Award.

This award is presented to the collection system that has demonstrated the highest compliance and excellence in the program and procedures of wastewater collection based on regulatory compliance, special accomplishment, emergency response procedures, administrative procedures, maintenance, safety, and training programs. Stege Sanitary District has a long history of awards and honors for its commitment to service and excellence. This is the seventh time the District has won the CWEA award. **S**



## Maintenance Hole Covers



Does the rattle of that sewer maintenance hole cover in the street drive you crazy every time a car goes over it? Do you see something coming out of the maintenance hole? Is the hole missing a cover? We'll come out to investigate. Just call us at (510) 524-4667.

Slabs of stone or wood used to cover sewage trenches have been around since 3,500 BCE. Modern round covers made of iron have been in use since the middle of the 19th century. They all have one thing in common—allowing access to sewer lines below for inspection, cleaning, and removal of obstructions in the line.

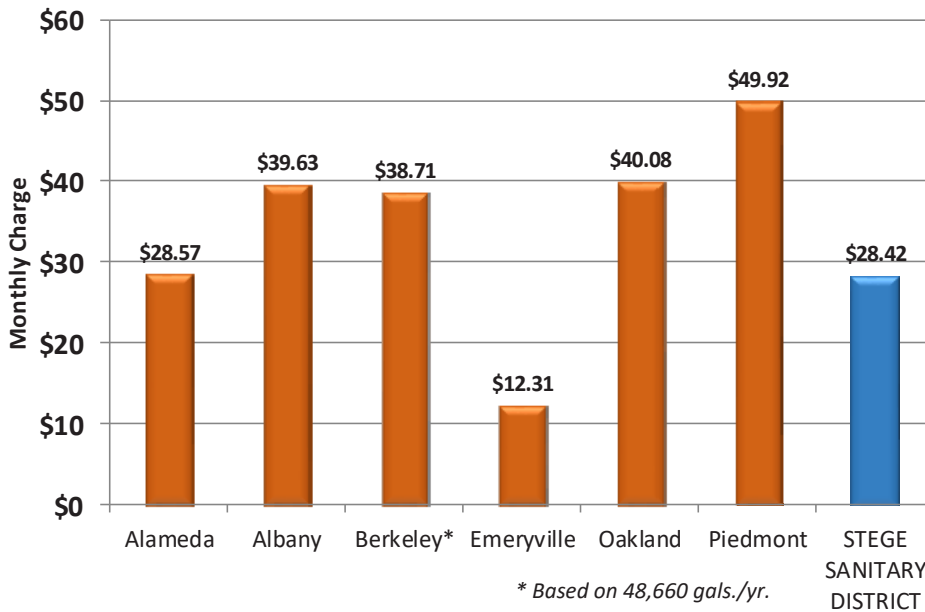
Maintenance holes are typically located

at the intersection of two streets. If the street is long, there probably will be a cover half way down the block. Some maintenance holes are located on easements. So, don't be surprised to see one next to your house or in your backyard. If you do find one there, be sure not to put anything on it.


And no matter how curious you are, please don't try picking up the cover. They're really, really heavy. Also, don't stick your head in to look. Lack of oxygen and/or noxious sewer gases, which trained staff have the proper safety equipment to check for, could knock you out. So again, please don't try to pick up a cover. That doesn't mean you can't admire them from a safe distance. **S**

# Award-Winning Service with Rates Among the Lowest in the Bay Area

## Monthly Single Family Residential Service Rate Comparison



For over 100 years, Stege Sanitary District has protected public health and the environment through the planning and operation of a safe, efficient and award-winning (see page 1) wastewater collection system. And it continues to do so economically with one of the lowest service rates in the Bay Area.

A sewer service rate increase approved by the District Board of Directors in 2019 is designed to be phased in over five years. The increase funds operating and capital improvement expenses while maintaining sufficient emergency reserve funds. 

## Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

### REVENUE

#### Sewer Operation Fund

Non Operating Income:	
Interest	50,000
Miscellaneous	21,000
Operating Income:	
Permit & Inspection Fees	12,000
Sewer Service Charges	3,149,000
Contracted Services	30,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,262,000</b>

#### Capital Fund

Non-Operating Income:	
Interest	15,000
Operating Income:	
Property Tax	400,000
Capital Service Charges	3,149,000
Connection Fees	150,000
San Pablo Ave. Impact Fee	250,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,964,000</b>

**TOTAL REVENUE 7,226,000**

### EXPENSES

#### Operating Expenses:

Maintenance/Engineering	2,159,348
Pump Stations	16,460
Contracted Repairs	68,000
General & Administration	894,828

**Subtotal Operating Expenses 3,138,636**

#### Capital Expenses

Capital Equipment	500,000
Debt Repayment -SRF Loan	148,200
Sewer Rehabilitation	5,667,000

**Subtotal Capital Expenses 6,315,200**

#### Other Expenses

Transfer from Capital Fund	-
Retiree Medical Fund	-

**TOTAL EXPENSES 9,453,836**

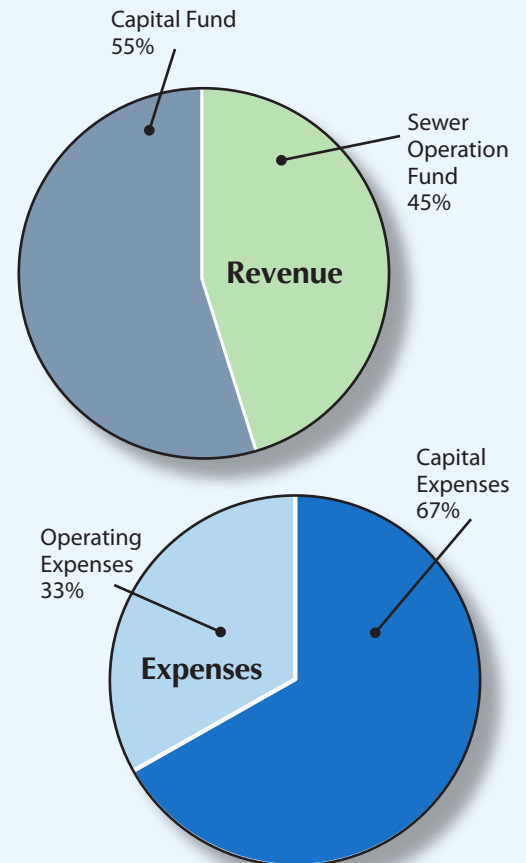
#### Transfer to/(from) Reserves

Revenue	7,226,000
Expenses	(9,453,836)

**Subtotal (2,227,836)**

#### TRANSFER

**TO/(FROM) RESERVES 2,227,836**



The District adheres to an investment policy for reserve funds that complies with state statutes and stipulates safety, liquidity, and yields as the order of investment objectives. All currently invested funds are with the State Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

# What the District Does and Does Not Do

DOES collect and transport wastewater to EBMUD treatment plant

DOES maintain sanitary sewer lines

DOES issue permits for sewer connections and lateral repair

DOES inspect new sewer connections and lateral repair

DOES operate sewer pump stations

DOES plan for sewer improvements

DOES oversee cost of operation and capital improvements

DOES NOT treat wastewater at the treatment plant

DOES NOT maintain storm drains

DOES NOT issue permits required by cities or county for street work

DOES NOT issue certificates of compliance for private laterals

DOES NOT collect garbage and recycling

DOES NOT provide water service


DOES NOT operate the El Cerrito Recycling Center

## Backflow Prevention Device




If your house lateral is not far enough above the rim of the next upstream sewer maintenance hole and there is an extraordinarily high volume of water in the main, or if a blockage downstream causes sewage to back up, you could find sewage coming back out of the drains in your house.

You can prevent this from happening by installing a backflow prevention device (BPD) on your lateral. The District requires BPDs on all new buildings, on laterals that have been repaired or replaced, and on existing buildings that have drain outlets 12" or less above the rim of the next upstream maintenance hole. The overflow device provides an emergency escape path should wastewater back up in your lateral. BPDs must be installed outside the home so overflow will occur outside, not inside your home. They must be maintained so they are free from obstructions and move easily.

If you are unsure if you already have a BPD on your lateral or if you want to know if you need one, contact us at (510) 524-4668 during business hours to make an appointment for a free inspection. Installing a BPD requires a \$25.00 permit, which is available at the District's office. 

## Don't Forget


### Plumbing Contractors

For a list of plumbing contractors registered to work on private laterals in the District, visit [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). Stege recommends getting at least three bids before starting work. 




### Put Wipes in the Trash, Not the Toilet


Disposable "flushable" wipes don't disintegrate in water. Instead they accumulate in sewers where they can cause a sewer

overflow into your home or into the street. Put all wipes where they belong—in the trash, not in the toilet. 


### Lateral Requirement

Under the Regional Private Sewer Lateral (PSL) Program, if you are buying or selling a property, building or remodeling in excess of \$100,000, or changing the size of your water meter, you must obtain a certificate from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) certifying that all of your PSLs are leak-free. Visit [eastbaypsl.com](http://eastbaypsl.com) for more information. 

### Sewer Easements

Over 26% of the sanitary sewer lines in the District are located on private property in easements or reserves. Property owners may NOT construct permanent structures on these easements as it restricts District access to the sewers. To see if you have a sewer easement on your property, call (510) 524-4668 during business hours. 

### [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org)

Find the latest announcements; a list of registered plumbing contractors; sewer permit and fee information; Board meeting schedule, minutes, and agenda; and FAQs on the District's website, [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org). 



**STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT**  
7500 Schmidt Lane  
El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 (510) 524-4667

**PRSR STD**  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Oakland, CA  
PERMIT NO. 379

To Contact Us: 24/7 Phone: (510) 524-4667 Email: [staff@stegesan.org](mailto:staff@stegesan.org) Web: [www.stegesan.org](http://www.stegesan.org) Twitter: @StegeSan



## Sewer Problems? Call Us First!

**S**low drains? Water or sewage backing up into your home? The problem might be a clog in your lateral—the private sewer line that runs from your home to the public sewer main—or the problem might be in the sewer main itself. **Call us before you call a plumber.** The District maintains a 24/7 emergency hotline that is always answered by a person, not a recording. The number is (510) 524-4667. If necessary, we will send out a crew to inspect and let you know if you need a plumber. The inspection is free and we try to respond within one hour of your call.

*If you call a plumber before calling the District, you may be responsible for any charges from your plumber, even if the problem turns out to be in the sewer main.* **S**

## Spotlight on Service

Dante DeLuca



**D**ante DeLuca is the District's newest system collection worker. He joins a crew of four who are responsible for cleaning and inspecting Stege Sanitary District's 148 miles of sanitary sewers and two pump stations.

Dante gained an early appreciation for hard work helping out at his family's concrete pumping business. Before coming to the District, he worked as a mechanic restoring vintage cars and motorcycles. Dante says what he likes most about his job

are the people he is working with and the satisfaction he gets knowing he is doing something vital for the community.

In his free time, Dante likes to fish in the Sierras and, of course, restore old cars and motorcycles. **S**