



► Win **FREE** Sewer Service For A Year!

PAGE 2



► USD's Infrastructure Projects

PAGE 2



► Plant Operators: Giving 24/7/365 Service To Our Customers

PAGE 3



► USD's Training Program Wins Global Award

PAGE 4

CUSTOMER Focus

Union Sanitary District

VOLUME VII
AUTUMN
2012

Sun-Powered Savings

USD's Irvington Pump Station Solar Project Makes The Fremont Facility Energy-Independent

Renewable energy and fiscal responsibility are powerful partners at USD! Our recent solar project saves on energy costs while maximizing the use of District resources. USD's Irvington Pump Station emergency storage pond now hosts 1,680 bright blue solar panels that rotate to follow the path of the sun throughout each day. The 21-acre site will be powered by the 875,000 kilowatt-hours the panels are expected to generate annually, which is enough to supply about 80 homes. Irvington Pump station includes six large pumps that send much of Fremont's wastewater toward our treatment plant in Union City, and has a capacity of 29 million gallons per day. The solar facility took a year to construct at a cost of \$2.85 million, and will bring in \$650,000 in rebates from PG&E over the next five years.



"The solar project was constructed in a location that included difficult soil types and old underground structures," says Project Engineer Curtis Bosick. "USD's maintenance teams and management staff were a great help in resolving project issues. The result is a clean, renewable energy source that will power one of our largest facilities."

The pump station is USD's second solar project. Our covered storage structure at our Alvarado Treatment

Plant in Union City has solar panels on its roof for an "energy boost" that helps to power the Administration and Field Services Buildings. USD is always seeking ways to create sources of renewable energy that will reduce our power bills and make the best use of the public's assets. Enhancing our stewardship of the environment in cost-effective ways is part of our mission to provide value to our customers.

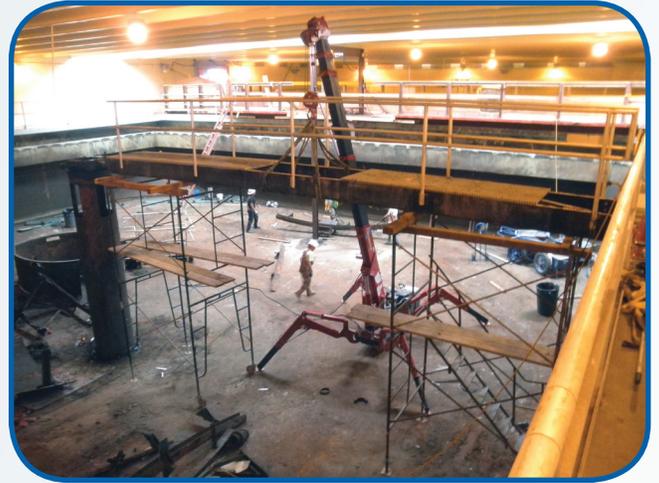


Keeping the Water Flowing... and the Treatment Going

An important part of USD's role as a steward of infrastructure and the environment is to keep our pipelines, pump stations and treatment plant in peak working order. In addition to day-to-day maintenance by our highly skilled staff, this also means construction of new and replacement facilities.

Over the next ten years, USD will spend an average of \$13 million annually on construction. This includes repair, replacement and upsizing of portions of our 780+ miles of sewer lines. We're also replacing, upgrading and upsizing our seven pump stations, and over 50 structures, buildings and major facilities at our treatment plant in Union City. These projects are essential to our mission to protect public health and San Francisco Bay.

Overall, USD is responsible for more than \$393 million in assets owned by our ratepayers. We carefully plan and prioritize projects to safeguard the community's investment and prepare for the future needs of the Tri-Cities.



USD works to keep costs down by obtaining grants or low interest-rate loans (typically 2.5%) to help finance our projects. The District recently received a \$4 million grant that will offset some of the costs for replacement of our treatment plant cogeneration system. The new system will better utilize the methane gas that is a byproduct of treatment processes and make the plant more energy-independent.

The next decade will see replacement of our 1950's Boyce Road Pump Station, upgrading of settling tanks and biosolids handling facilities, replacement of odor control equipment, and addition of storage capacity for wet-weather flows. While these construction projects may require modest rate increases, USD will continue to search out grants and low-rate financing to ensure our goal of keeping our rates in the lowest third of Bay Area agencies.

Win Our Contest And Go Back To School With Your Refund!

Visit our website at www.unionsanitary.ca.gov and search our pages to answer a few fun questions. You'll be eligible to win a year of free sewer service!
For residential customers only.

What could you buy with your prize?

3,072 No.2 Pencils

91 binders

45 Flash Drives

Nine Backpacks

63 Spiral Notebooks

Win FREE
Sewer Service
For A Year!
A \$319 Value

USD's Plant Operators: 'Round-The-Clock Dedication At Our 24/7/365 Facility

Many businesses "close up shop" at 5 p.m., but USD isn't one of them! Our Alvarado Treatment Plant in Union City runs 'round the clock every day, because the wastewater never stops. USD's state-certified Plant Operators work nights, weekends and holidays, too, protecting San Francisco Bay and making sure that thousands of pieces of equipment are running smoothly. They also receive calls and dispatch District personnel to assist when customers have sewer emergencies.

USD's Operators use a sophisticated computer system to monitor the flow of 26 million gallons of wastewater each day through the District's pump stations and wastewater treatment plant.

They also test wastewater samples, make rounds to check on equipment, perform preventative maintenance, respond to alarms, and make adjustments to the treatment process throughout their 12-hour shifts to ensure that the treated wastewater remains continuously in compliance with all regulatory standards.

Mechanics, electricians, and pipeline maintenance staff are on call at all times, ready to help whenever needed. Whether on-shift or on-call, USD employees are always ready to give exceptional service to our community.



Board of Directors

L. Patricia Kite, President
Newark

Anjali Lathi,
Vice President
Fremont

Manny Fernandez,
Secretary
Union City

Jennifer Toy
Fremont

Tom Handley
Fremont

General Manager

Richard Currie



USD's Mission:

To safely and responsibly collect and treat wastewater for the Tri-Cities while protecting human health and improving the environment in a way that benefits our customers, employees and the community.

If you have questions, please call us at (510) 477-7500.

What Does GREEN Mean?

"Green" means a lot of different things these days, but do you know what these lines mean when you see them in the street? USD marks the location of its underground sewer lines in green. If you are planning any project that requires digging - even if it's inside your property line - call **811** or **(800) 227-2600** to have your utilities marked.

There's an amazing network of sewer, water, gas, fiber optic, and other utility lines buried under your yard and street! Digging for a simple

project like a fencepost, sprinkler system or landscape planting can affect those lines. Know the location of your underground utilities to prevent accidents or injuries. Calling **811 two business days before you dig** will alert all utilities affected by your project to provide location markings. For more information, see www.usanorth.org, or call USD at (510) 477-7500.



○ SERVICE | ○ WATER QUALITY | ○ ENVIRONMENT

Protecting The Tri-Cities and San Francisco Bay

WWW.UNIONSANITARY.CA.GOV

What's On Our Website?

www.unionsanitary.ca.gov

- Visit our **What's New** page to learn about our Alvarado Treatment Plant in Union City.
- **Homeowner Information** pages give tips about helping the environment, sewer repairs and homeowner "do's and don'ts."
- "About Us" pages tell you about our Board of Directors, Financial Information, and USD's Mission, Facts and History.
- The **Links** page leads you to valuable information, including how to pursue a career in the water and wastewater industry.



Protecting The Tri-Cities and San Francisco Bay
5072 Benson Road
Union City, CA 94587-2508

**Win FREE
Sewer Service
For A Year!
Details Inside**

USD's Training Program Wins Top 125 Global Award

USD was one of only three public agencies to receive Training Magazine's Top 125 Global Training Organizations Award for 2011. The District joined corporate giants such as Microsoft Corporation, Farmers Insurance and Verizon in being recognized for excellence in employer-sponsored training and development programs.

USD's training program is designed to document the extensive knowledge of our highly-skilled employees, and to use standardized processes for training and performance assessment. Maintaining a professional, knowledgeable workforce is an important component of our ability to deliver award-winning service, protect the environment, and maintain low rates.



2011 winner

News Worth Noting!

- Board members Lathi, Fernandez and Kite begin new four-year terms
 - USD wins Bay Area Collection System of the Year Award
- USD's Plant wins National Association of Clean Water Agencies Gold Award
 - USD Purchasing Team wins National Excellence in Procurement Award
- USD's Administration Complex is recertified as an Alameda County Green Business
 - USD's rates are in the Lowest 15% of Bay Area agencies
- USD's participation in the Bay Area Chemical Consortium will save more than \$750,000 in chemical costs over three years

