



# UNION SANITARY DISTRICT

## PROTECTING THE TRI-CITIES AND SAN FRANCISCO BAY

FALL 2018

### USD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY:

# CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE

USD is honored to celebrate 100 years of providing wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to the Tri-Cities in 2018. Our Centennial birthday inspired us to look back through our history, and we're proud of our predecessors' commitment to delivering excellent service throughout the years. Their dedication is the bedrock we're building upon as we plan for USD's future.

USD's original boundaries encompassed 3,300 acres in what was known as Southern Alameda County. The area was primarily farm and ranchland well into the twentieth century, and septic tanks were typically used for wastewater disposal. Today, USD's service area covers over 60 square miles (about 38,400 acres) and serves over 355,000 residents in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, with over 113,000 residential, commercial, and industrial connections. Total flow to our Alvarado Treatment Plant in Union City was over 8.5 billion gallons in 2017, and averages between 22 and 24 million gallons daily.

The highlight of our Centennial year was our Open House event for the community in May. Several hundred customers of all ages were entertained and enlightened as they visited display and demonstration booths, participated in fun activities, and toured our 33-acre treatment facility to find out what happens to wastewater.

"Our service area has grown and changed significantly since our founding year," says General Manager Paul R. Eldredge. "USD has constantly innovated throughout our history to meet the needs of our communities while fulfilling our mission to protect public health and the environment. We look forward to continuing that commitment for many years to come."



Fun at our Centennial Open House



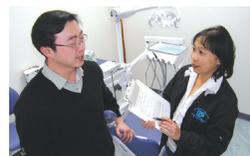
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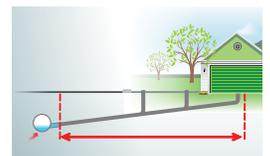
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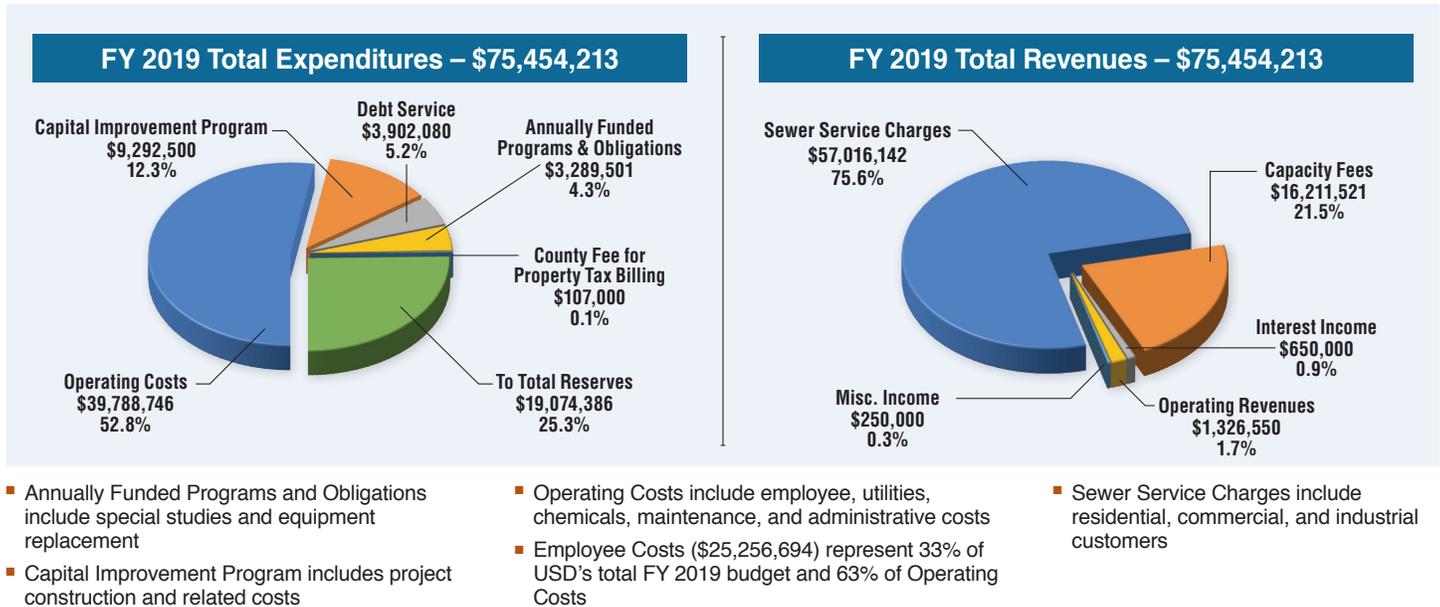
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# BUDGET IN BRIEF

USD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to over 355,000 residents in the Tri-Cities. The District manages 819 miles of sewer lines, seven pump stations, and buildings and equipment at our 33-acre treatment plant. Through careful fiscal planning, we safeguard these public assets and efficiently use our resources to provide excellent service at low rates. See how USD's rates compare to others in the Bay Area at [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov/rates/sewer-service-charges](http://www.unionsanitary.ca.gov/rates/sewer-service-charges).



## COURTESY RATE ADJUSTMENT NOTICE:

# FISCAL YEAR 2019 SEWER SERVICE RATES

On January 25, 2016, the District's Board of Directors held a public hearing and adopted Ordinance 31.39, which established sewer service charges for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021. Prior to the public hearing, the District participated in two public meetings and mailed a notice of the public hearing and informational brochure to all property owners in our service area.

Annual Sewer Service Charges are placed on the Alameda County property tax statement. The charges appear on the tax statement as a single line item and are listed as "Union Sewer Svc". Sewer Service Charges are not a property tax and are not related to the assessed value of a property. They represent a charge for a service provided. USD includes the annual charges on property tax statements to save the administrative cost of generating and mailing separate invoices. The adjacent table depicts last year's rates and the new rates for FY 2019. If you have questions, call USD at (510) 477-7500 or email to: [rates@unionsanitary.ca.gov](mailto:rates@unionsanitary.ca.gov).

|  | Last Year's Rate<br>FY 2018 | This Year's Rate<br>FY 2019 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Residential (\$ per Dwelling Unit)</b>    |                             |                             |
| Single Family Residences                     | \$393.35                    | \$407.12                    |
| Multiple Family Residences                   | \$341.03                    | \$352.97                    |
| <b>Commercial (\$ per 1,000 gals)</b>        |                             |                             |
| Strong                                       | \$9.93                      | \$10.28                     |
| Moderate                                     | \$4.90                      | \$5.07                      |
| Weak   | \$4.08                      | \$4.23                      |
| Fast-Food Restaurant                         | \$9.29                      | \$9.61                      |
| Full-Service Restaurant                      | \$12.30                     | \$12.73                     |
| <b>Industrial</b>                            |                             |                             |
| Volume (\$/1,000 gals)                       | \$2.31                      | \$2.39                      |
| COD (\$/1,000 lbs)                           | \$306.41                    | \$317.14                    |
| Suspended Solids (\$/1,000 lbs)              | \$712.72                    | \$737.66                    |
| Minimum Charge for non-residential customers | \$341.03                    | \$352.97                    |

## PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD & THE ENVIRONMENT:

# POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

### You can help USD protect the Tri-Cities and San Francisco Bay.

Actions you take at home help guard against costly, messy sewer backups and other impacts to your property, neighborhood, and local waterways, which ultimately lead to the Bay:

- **Keep Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) OUT of Your Drains!** They can solidify and cause messy backups into your home, onto streets, and down storm drains, where they can reach our local creeks and the Bay. **COOL IT, CAN IT, and TRASH IT** instead: Let FOG cool down, then scrape it into an empty soup or pet food can with some absorbent paper and discard in your trash.
- **Don't Flush Medicines.** Our treatment process doesn't remove all substances, and many pharmaceuticals can pass through into the Bay, where they may have detrimental impacts on fish and wildlife. Check <https://med-project.org> for FREE safe disposal kiosk locations in the Tri-Cities.
- **Your Toilet Is Not a Trashcan:** Don't flush items like dental floss, hair, or cigarette butts. Sanitary products, cotton swabs, bandages, paper towels, diapers, wipes, and facial tissues are made of materials that don't break down like toilet paper. They can cause your sewer lateral to back up and impact our sewer mains. Keep them out of your toilet.
- **Please Don't Wash Your Car in the Driveway:** Automotive fluids, oils, metal particles, and soaps often will run off into storm drains, which flow untreated to creeks and the Bay. Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash instead. They release their water into the sanitary sewer, which flows to USD for treatment.



Grease buildup in a sewer line

Courtesy Department of Environmental Services, Arlington, VA



Medicine disposal kiosk

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Wastewater is a highly regulated utility.** USD reports to dozens of regional, state, and national agencies and complies with hundreds of regulations to fulfill our mission of protecting public health and the environment. We also work cooperatively with cities and special districts in our service area to provide the highest value to our customers.
- **USD works with dentists and medical facilities** in the Tri-City area to reduce mercury in wastewater. Mercury cannot be completely removed by treatment processes. Keeping mercury and other toxic metals out of San Francisco Bay is an important component of our stewardship of the environment.
- **USD inspects over 900 Tri-City restaurants** to keep fats, oils and grease (FOG) out of the sewer, where they can cause overflows in the community and affect our treatment processes. We require proper grease removal devices and good housekeeping practices to keep sewers running freely.

Find USD on  
Social Media



USD posts tips for keeping your sewer healthy and protecting the environment on our Facebook page and @usdtweets, plus news about our activities in the Tri-Cities. **Follow us for online info!**

# UNION SANITARY DISTRICT

5072 Benson Road  
Union City, CA 94587-2508

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO 333

ECR WSS



## IS YOUR SEWER LATERAL HEALTHY? TAKE A LOOK

Your sewer lateral is a pipe that connects the plumbing system in your residence or business to USD's main sewer line. **Property owners are responsible for maintenance, repair, or replacement of their entire sewer lateral up to its connection to USD's main line.** This includes portions located under sidewalks and streets (see exhibit below). Find out if your lateral is healthy:

- **Periodic video inspection by a licensed plumber** can help verify your lateral's condition and diagnose problems that, left unattended, could require costly repairs. This typically costs approximately \$300 - \$500. USD suggests you observe the inspection, so you can ask questions while the camera is in your lateral. Our staff can review your video at our offices and answer your questions at no charge.
- **If a problem is found in your lateral, before any work begins, a USD repair permit is required** (even for repairs on private property). If you are hiring a contractor to make repairs, we advise obtaining estimates from more than one licensed, insured plumbing contractor. They can be researched under listings such as "Plumbing Drain & Sewer Cleaning" or "Sewer Contractors". USD does not endorse companies. Call us at (510) 477-7500 for more information.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Anjali Lathi, President**  
Fremont

**Tom Handley**  
Fremont

**Manny Fernandez, Vice-President**  
Union City

**Pat Kite**  
Newark

**Jennifer Toy, Secretary**  
Fremont

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

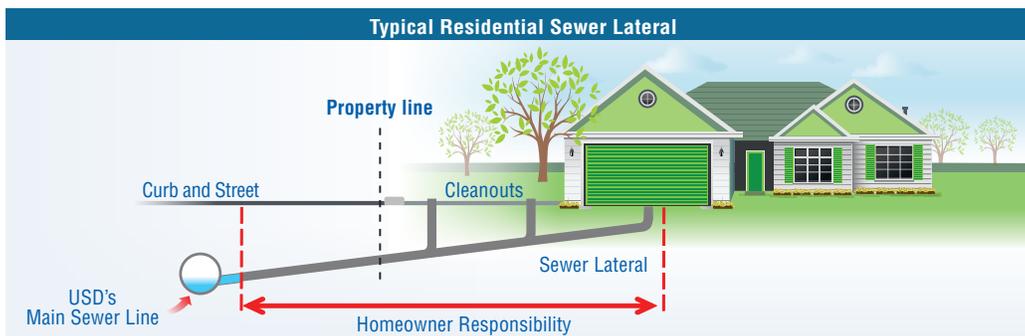
**Paul Eldredge**  
General Manager

**Sami Ghossain**  
Technical Services Manager

**Armando Lopez**  
Treatment & Disposal Services Manager

**James Schofield**  
Collection Services Manager

**Robert Simonich**  
Fabrication, Maintenance, & Construction Manager



For more tips about keeping your lateral healthy, check our website at [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov](http://www.unionsanitary.ca.gov) or call us at (510) 477-7500.

### UNION SANITARY DISTRICT'S MISSION:

To safely and responsibly collect and treat wastewater, and to recover resources from process waste streams, while protecting human health and improving the environment in a way that benefits the Tri-Cities and all USD stakeholders.