

# Union Sanitary District



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## CUSTOMER Focus

### USD: A PUBLIC UTILITY

Union Sanitary District (USD) is known as a “quiet utility.” We provide reliable sewer service that protects public health and the environment for the Tri-Cities without much fanfare. But we never forget that we are a *public* utility, entrusted to take care of the infrastructure and wastewater treatment processes that our customers depend on every day.



USD is a California Independent Special District. Special

Districts are local government agencies formed by the citizens they serve. Our Board of Directors are each elected to four-year terms of service, and live in the communities they represent.

The District's capital projects, rates and expenditures are all public information. We never forget that the over \$393 million in assets we maintain belong to you. Your infrastructure investments are the backbone of our mission to protect the Tri-Cities and San Francisco Bay, and USD is committed to maintaining them for you through transparent, fiscally responsible stewardship.

### OPEN TO ALL

USD's Board Meetings Keep District Business In The Public Eye

USD holds Board meetings at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of every month. At these public meetings, our five-member Board conducts business that keeps USD's 24/7/365 operations on track. Below are some of the Board's responsibilities:

- Approving contracts for engineering and construction projects
- Authorizing special studies and planning documents
- Reviewing and approving policies
- Reviewing monthly expenditures
- Reviewing and approving the annual budget and rates
- Receiving reports from staff on the status of projects, budget items, and progress toward meeting annual goals

For the latest agenda, see the “About Us/Board of Directors” page at [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov](http://www.unionsanitary.ca.gov).



Where Does  
Wastewater Go? How  
USD Cleans It Up For  
A Healthy Bay  
PAGE 2

USD's Laboratory  
Chemists Ensure  
Safe Discharge to the  
Environment  
PAGE 2

Mechanics and  
Electricians Keep  
USD Running  
24/7/365  
PAGE 3

USD Protects Public  
Health and the  
Environment - and  
You Can Help!  
PAGE 4

# Where Does Treated Wastewater Go?

After the wastewater from Tri-City homes, businesses and industries has traveled through screens, settling tanks, biological treatment units and is disinfected with bleach at our Alvarado Treatment Plant in Union City, its journey isn't over. You might even say that it has a commute!

About ten percent of USD's treated effluent provides fresh water to the Hayward Marsh, a reclaimed wetland and bird sanctuary just north of Highway 92. The rest is combined with effluent from other east bay wastewater agencies in a single large pipeline, which is managed by the East Bay Discharger's Authority (EBDA). All of the agencies that use

the pipeline contribute to the cost of operating and maintaining the joint EBDA facilities.

The water undergoes one final step to remove residual chlorine at a facility near the San Leandro Marina in order to protect marine life. From there, the pipeline travels over seven miles into San Francisco Bay, where the effluent is diffused in a 30-foot deep shipping channel about four miles west of Oakland Airport for maximum dilution. It's then carried out to the ocean with the tides.



## How Do We Make Sure It's Clean Enough For the Bay?

USD receives about 24 million gallons of wastewater each day from Fremont, Newark and Union City. How do we make sure that our plant is effectively treating all of that water before it's released to the environment? We test it. **A lot.** Our state-certified laboratory performs about 17,000 analyses and processes 6,200 samples every year to ensure that our discharge is clean enough for the San Francisco Bay.

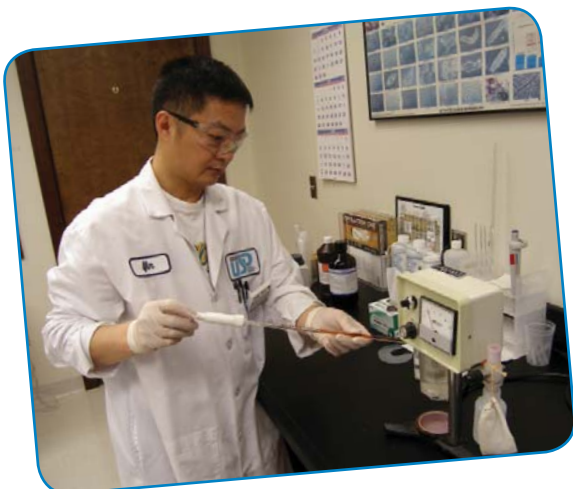
"Our staff uses advanced instrumentation and techniques to support our award-winning treatment plant and pretreatment program," says Laboratory Director Guy Moy.

USD's chemists generate data that verifies the effectiveness of our treatment processes as wastewater makes its way through our plant.



"We also test the waste streams of Tri-City industries that are monitored by our Environmental Compliance Team, to make sure they meet USD's requirements for discharging to the sewer," Guy continues.

USD's laboratory staff members have degrees in biological or chemistry sciences. They are available after-hours if our Operations Teams need their assistance. "We work hard to provide high-quality analytical data that our coworkers use to make critical decisions," says Guy. "We're proud of our role in protecting human health and San Francisco Bay."



# BIG OR SMALL, THEY MAINTAIN IT ALL

## USD'S MECHANICS AND ELECTRICIANS SUPPORT OUR 24/7 OPERATIONS

It takes thousands of pieces of equipment and dozens of vehicles to keep USD running smoothly 24/7/365. Our mechanics and electricians make sure everything operates at peak efficiency, because wastewater never stops.

Mechanics from our Fabrication, Maintenance and Construction Group (FMC) maintain and repair over 6,000 pieces of equipment needed for wastewater treatment, including pumps, compressors, valves, generators, mechanical drives and gear boxes. FMC's instrument technicians oversee electrical, instrument and automation control equipment such as analyzers, circuit breakers and flow meters. USD's 24/7 schedule requires FMC mechanics and electricians to be "on-call" for after-hours and weekend needs.

"The keys to our success are planning, communication and flexibility," says FMC Supervisor David Port. "We schedule our work ahead of time, then meet every day to fine-tune our plans and adapt them to the District's needs."

USD's fleet mechanics maintain 168 pieces of equipment, including 70 vehicles that range from hybrid sedans to three-axle diesel trucks. Also in the mix are backhoes, bobcats, pumps, blowers, and "anything that has an engine," says mechanic Charles Fernandez.

Fleet mechanics also diagnose and fix equipment problems in the field for crews while they are out working in the District's 60 square-mile service area, and customize vehicles with equipment modifications for efficiency.

"Our fleet is heavily used," says Andy Morrison, Collection Services Manager. "It's impressive that our mechanics stay on top of preventative maintenance, but are always ready to quickly respond when crews need help to keep their field work on schedule."



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Currie

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

**Win FREE**  
**Sewer Service**  
**for a Year! A \$337**  
**value**

**HAVE SOME**  
**FALL FUN**  
**WITH YOUR**  
**REFUND!**

## Win Our Contest

Visit our website at [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov](http://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. Winner will be drawn November 25, 2013.

*What could you buy with your prize?*

**2 Stanford-Cal Game Tickets**

**8 NFL Stadium Blankets**

**42 Foam Fingers**

**28 Bleacher Cushions**

## USD'S LATEST AWARDS

USD employee Jose Rodrigues wins Statewide Collection System Worker of the Year Award

Operations Supervisor Larry Simmers wins Bay Area Professional Development Award

USD's Plant wins National Association of Clean Water Agencies Gold Award

USD's Purchasing Team wins National Excellence in Procurement Award

Want to know more?  
Check out our website at [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov](http://www.unionsanitary.ca.gov)



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

## HOW DOES USD PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH?

WE'RE WORKING EVERY DAY FOR YOU AND THE BAY - AND YOU CAN HELP!

Flushing toilets, taking showers, and doing laundry - these are everyday actions that our customers don't have to think about very much, and that means we're doing our job well.

Because USD is very successful in fulfilling our mission to provide award-winning, reliable sewer service to the Tri-Cities, it's easy to forget that our work is essential to the protection

of public health and the environment.

How is it essential? We keep wastewater away from our customers by transporting it to our treatment plant in Union City in over 780 miles of underground pipelines. We

treat wastewater to remove contaminants and disinfect

it to remove bacteria before releasing it to the Bay.

We also work to clean wastewater before it enters our system. We monitor industries in our service area, advising them about what they

can and cannot discharge to USD. We inspect restaurants, dentists and other businesses to keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), metals and toxic compounds out of the sewer.

You can help us to fulfill our mission. Keep FOG, unused medicines and pesticides out of your toilets and drains to help maintain clear sewer lines, a healthy treatment plant and a cleaner Bay. For more pollution prevention information, visit [www.unionsanitary.ca.gov](http://www.unionsanitary.ca.gov).



~ SERVICE | ~ WATER QUALITY | ~ ENVIRONMENT

PROTECTING THE TRI-CITIES AND SAN FRANCISCO BAY

[WWW.UNIONSANITARY.CA.GOV](http://WWW.UNIONSANITARY.CA.GOV)