

WHAT'S THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN DOING IN 2009-2010

We have had a very busy year at the Mission Hills Community Services District.

WE HAVE:

- Completed the new billing software upgrade
- Began accepting credit payments: in person, over the phone, or on-line
- Completed the new "Community Sports Field" with the help of Vandenberg Village Rotary Club as well as the Lompoc Kiwanis
- Installed a drinking fountain next to the playground
- Installed new BBQ facilities next to the playground
- Upgraded the Specifications and Technical Standards for construction standards
- Began the process of installing "Automated Meter Reading" meters for both accuracy and labor reduction. We are about 20% completed at this point in time and will continue to install more every year.

We hope you enjoy these new additions to our community as much as we do.

Please continue to do a good job in cleaning up after yourselves.



Mission Hills Community Services District

**July 2010
Newsletter**



1550 E. Burton Mesa Blvd.
Lompoc, CA 93436-2100

Phone: 805-733-4366
Fax: 805-733-4188

Office Hours: 8:00—5:00
Monday thru Friday

Help Avoid Sewer Blockages and Overflows in Your Neighborhood

"FOG" stands for Fats, Oil and Grease. Did you know that pouring fats, oil, grease, and dairy products down the drain or your garbage disposal creates build ups in underground pipes and creates serious problems such as sewer blockages and overflows? Along with the cost for clean up, the untreated sewage can create a health hazard and threaten the environment. These simple steps will help prevent major sewage problems.

- Do not put any dairy products, fats, oil, grease, or greasy food down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Freeze small amounts of fats, oil, and grease in a container with a tight fitting lid and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Mix cooking oils in a container with a lid and dispose of it in a trash container.
- Wipe or scrape pots, pans, and dishes off prior to washing.

No Drugs Down the Drain

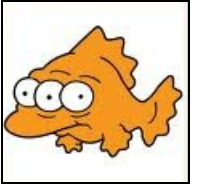
Studies have found very small amounts of medication in surface water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes) across the country.

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The Impacts on Human Health and the Environment?

The most recent extensive study of medications in surface waters was performed by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1999 and 2000. This study surveyed 139 streams throughout the U.S. in locations that were thought to be susceptible to contamination and tested for 95 medications and hormones. In 80% of the samples tested, one or more of the chemicals were found, generally in very small amounts. Some of the medications found were acetaminophen, steroids, hormones, codeine, antibiotics, antimicrobials, and ibuprofen.



The major concerns regarding the presence of medications in surface water bodies have been increased bacterial resistance to antibiotics and interference with the growth and reproduction in aquatic organisms, such as fish and frogs.

This is a complex issue and the level of risk to humans and the environment is still being determined. However, research is ongoing and in the meantime, it is prudent to limit the disposal of waste medications to the sewer in order to minimize the potential negative and irreversible impacts on the environment.

New Safe Drug Drop Off Program:

You can now take unused medications to the Lompoc Sheriff's Substation for proper disposal at 3500 Harris Grade Rd or call 737-7737

(All information regarding medications down the drain were from www.nodrugsdownthedrain.com)

Mission Hills Community Services District 2010 Newsletter

Mission Statement: The Mission Hills Community Services District is committed to providing the residents with reliable, high quality water and wastewater services in an efficient, cost effective, and environmentally safe manner.

District Board Meetings are to be held at 7:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the District office. An agenda of the board meetings are posted at the district office on Friday prior to the meeting.



The public is encouraged to attend. To view the monthly agenda please visit www.mhcsd.org

Street Sweeping: Mission Hills is serviced on the 2nd Wednesday and Mesa Oaks on the 4th Wednesday of every month. In order to have an efficient service, please park all vehicles off the street on those days. To assist the street sweeping company we are asking customers to pick up excessive tree leaves and dispose of them in the green waste can provided.

Meter Boxes: Please assist our meter readers by maintaining in and around the meter box. Often times the boxes are filled with dirt due to gopher activity, making it difficult to read the dials. Safety is very important to us, if you own a dog, please secure him or her the last three days of every month.

Going on Vacation? The Mission Hills Community Services District will make payment arrangements for customers on vacation. We recommend prepaying your bill if your vacation extends beyond the last day of the month. Your bill will receive a 10 percent late fee if the payment is received after the last day of the month.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department encourages you to call them at 733-7737 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday to be placed on the "Vacation Watch Program", they will periodically check your residence during your absence.



Locate Your Master Valve: Do you know how to shut your water off in an emergency? The most common locations are (1) where the water supply enters your home (2) near your clothes washer hook-up (3) near your water heater.

To determine if you found it, try turning the valve off briefly and see if that shuts off all water faucets in the building.

Once you have found the master valve, be sure to mark it with something distinctive— bright paint, a tag, or ribbon. This will save you valuable time should you ever experience interior flooding or other crisis requiring quick water shutoff.

FY 2010-2011 RATES **STAYING THE SAME FOR** **THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE** **YEAR IN A ROW!!!**

At the May 12, 2010 Board of Directors meeting the Board adopted the 2010-2011 Budget. This budget will provide the funding to meet the goals of the District for the fiscal year of 2010-2011, this budget totals \$1,532,537.



Is Your Bill Higher Than Normal?

A faucet drip each second adds up to about 3,000 gallons of water wasted per year. A pin-hole leak in a buried or concealed pipe can waste up to 6,000 gallons per month. A toilet that constantly flows can waste up to 130 gallons per hour every day of a whole month, that equals 129 billing units. Not only will these tips help save you money, it will also help with the environment.

Resignation of Board Member

Stan Whitty, who has continued as an elected board member of the Mission Hills Community Services District for several years while battling multiple neurological disorders, resigned during a special meeting Wednesday, May 12, 2010 after eight years of service.

The board reluctantly accepted Whitty's resignation and presented him with a service plaque and resolution recognizing his contributions as a member.

City Comparisons

The rates described below are from the 2009-2010 budget cycle

City of Lompoc:

Water

\$23.04 Meter Fee
\$2.75 per unit

Wastewater

\$5.10 per unit (minimum of \$20.40)

Vandenberg Village:

Water

3/4" service—\$22.89 OR
1" service—\$27.63
1-10 units = \$1.19 per unit
11-17 units = \$1.37 per unit
18-49 units = \$1.55 per unit

Wastewater

\$56.63 flat fee per month

Mission Hills:

Water

3/4" service—\$16.60 OR
1" service—\$20.75
1-10 units = \$0.90 per unit
11-20 units = \$1.25 per unit
21-30 units = \$1.45 per unit
30 + units = \$1.75 per unit

Wastewater

\$31.50 flat fee per month

1 unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons

Example:

10 units = 7,480 gallons