

July 2011 Newsletter

Board of Directors

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Monday—Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
www.mhcsd.org

Versión en español del bo-
letín anual ya está dis-
ponible en la Oficina de dis-

Mission Hills Community Services District

TOO MUCH SALT!!!

Salt Is Serious Because....

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board has determined that the Mission Hills CSD wastewater contains too much salt.

High salinity (salt content) can be harmful to the environment, making groundwater unsafe to drink or irrigate crops, and soil unable to grow food.

How can Salt be less serious?

- The District can treat the salt problem “at the end of the pipe”, which will be at the District’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). However this will be very expensive and will result in much higher sewer bills for everyone.

A better way to treat the

salt problem is “at the beginning of the pipe” by eliminating or greatly reducing the amount of salt each and every one of us puts into the District’s sewer system.

How can I help?

- If you have a salt discharging water softener, disconnect it. If necessary, you can then use a water softener that does not discharge salt. Salt discharging water softeners are a major contributor to salt in our District’s wastewater.
- Choose liquid soap for laundry and dishwashers. Powdered soaps have a higher salt content.
- Buy and use dryer

sheets instead of liquid softeners. Liquid softeners have a high salt content.

- Put kitchen food waste in the trash instead of the in-sink garbage disposal. Most food waste is high in salt.

- Live by example. Teach others and your children about putting less salt down the drain.

- Educate others about pollution prevention and the District’s salt problem.

How can I get more information?

- Contact the District’s General Manager at 805-733-4366 x 201
- Visit the Mission Hills Community Services District website at

Hazardous Waste

In the State of California it is illegal to dump hazardous wastes such as paints, stains, varnishes, thinners, strippers, brush cleaners and other solvents, epoxies, glues, sealants, wood preservatives and aerosol spray paints. Placing these into storm drains, sinks, toilets, the trash or onto the ground is hazardous to the water supply. You can help protect our drinking water by disposing of hazardous waste properly through the local hazardous waste collection program.

For More Information Call 875-8024 (city of Lompoc)
or visit County of Santa Barbara website at www.countyofsb.org



Take a look at our **New and Improved Web-Site** www.mhcsd.org

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.

AFTER HOURS

water/ wastewater emergency please call 805-588-2833

New Billing Software/ Payments

With the completion of our new billing software upgrade we have added more ways to pay your utility bill.

In Person:
During regular hours
Mon– Fri 8 am to 5 pm

Outside Drop Box:
Please do not deposit cash .

Credit Card
Use your MasterCard, Visa or Electronic Check by completing the form on your monthly bill or by phone

(\$1.00 charge applies by phone) at
805-733-4366 x 205.

Auto Pay
Visit our website www.mhcsd.org, to set up automatic payments
Please do not staple your payment to your bill

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 District Budget

At the June 8th, 2011 Board of Directors meeting, the Board adopted the 2011-2012 Budget. At this point in time, we will have had (7) consecutive budgets without a rate increase. However, we have been faced with major capital improvements over the past few years and current system upgrades to our wastewater treatment plant. In an effort to plan for the fu-

ture financial stability of the District, the District is performing a water and sewer rate study. The rate study will ascertain the cost to the District of providing water and sewer services. If the results of the study show that the cost to the District of providing water and sewer services exceeds the District's current rates charged to its customers, the District will need to

consider increasing rates. Any such proposed increase must be done in accordance with the requirements of Proposition 218, which governs local government rate increases. If the District proceeds with the Proposition 218 process, notices will be sent to all affected customers and property owners with further information, as required by law.

City Rate Comparisons

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

District Improvements

Water Distribution System

- Drilling, developing and placing two (2) new potable wells in service
- Constructing (2) well houses piping and safety devices
- Upgrading the automatic control system to control potable water operations
- Total cost for all of these improvements was \$1.4 million dollars.

Wastewater System

- Remove and replace 27 year old pond #2 liner system. This involved the removal and disposal of approximately 275 tons of sludge. Reconstructing the pond banks and installing 85,000 sq ft of HDPE liner material
- At the completion of Pond #2 repairs the same procedure will begin on Pond #1
- Anticipated total cost for these repairs is \$1.5 million dollars

Street Sweeping

We have been able to find a new company to provide street sweeping service to the Mission Hills CSD area.

We will now have service the Third week of the month on Tuesday and Wednesday

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.



Park Rules

- The District does not allow BBQ pits to be brought on premises.
- Under no circumstances do we allow alcoholic beverages on District grounds.
- If you would like to bring a bounce house you must get clearance from the office prior to the event

Please keep in mind our park was donated to the community. Everyone need to take part in keeping the park and sports field safe and clean for all to use.

Board Meetings

District Board Meeting are to be held at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the District Office. Agenda of the Board Meetings are posted at the District office and District website on the Friday Prior to the meeting. **The Public is encouraged to attend.**

Meter Boxes

Please assist our meter readers by maintaining in and around your meter box. Often times the boxes are hard to locate due to overgrown shrubs or 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 for meter reading

Valves (important please read)

Under no circumstances do we want the residents of Mission Hills CSD to turn on or off any District valve located inside the meter box. This can results in damage to the valve. If a customer damages a valve, it is the responsibility of the customer to meet the cost of replacement. We are here to assist you, please call 733-4366.

Help Avoid Sewer Blockage and Overflows in your Neighborhood. (FOG)



Fats, oil and grease, also known as FOG, causes sewer blockages, leading to spills and overflows that are hazardous to our health. These spills can result in damage to our homes; pollute our local waterways and groundwater; and harm fish and wildlife habitats. The good news is, community members like us have the power to easily prevent damage from FOG, contributing to a better quality of life here in Mission Hills.

FOG in liquid form may not seem harmful, but don't let that fool you. As FOG cools, it congeals and hardens, making it a toxic substance for the sewage system. It sticks to the inner lining of drainage pipes and restricts the wastewater flow, eventually causing a blockage. Using detergents or bleach may appear to help, but this is not the case. It is only a temporary solution. FOG will soon return to its thick, solid state—cleaners just send the FOG further down the sewage line. FOG build up is the number one cause of public and private sewage spills. Luckily, these situations are entirely preventable.

FOG includes animal fats, vegetable fats, and oils used to cook and prepare food. FOG is a solid or viscous substance, which will ultimately create an obstruction in the sewer system if not properly disposed. It can cause serious damage to the sewage system, your property and that of your neighbors, as well as damage to streets and waterways from sewage overflows. Cleanup can be very costly and this expense translates to higher bills for sewer customers. By being aware of what FOG can do to your surroundings it is easier to take that extra minute to prevent FOG from ending up in the sewer.

What happens when FOG isn't properly disposed?

A wastewater sewer system works similarly to the circulatory system of the human body. Wastewater

flows through pipes, is pumped at the pump stations, and is cleaned by the wastewater plant. FOG creates blockages within the sewer system that can lead to system failure as it builds up. FOG clings to the walls of the sewer system. FOG builds up one layer at a time making a smaller, narrower path for the water to travel through.

FOG in the sewer system can cause: Raw sewage overflowing into homes—clean up is expensive and unpleasant, and often must be paid for by homeowners. Raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets and parks. Exposure to disease-causing organisms. An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, brining about higher sewer bills for the customers

How should FOG be handled at home? To dispose of FOG properly, follow these simple steps. Never pour FOG into your sink or toilet. Pour FOG into a can—a coffee can works well. Place a lid over the top Store it to be reused until full. When the can is full, throw it in the trash. When there is FOG residue in a pan or on a dish, wipe it with a paper towel before washing and throw that towel in the trash. Also, place a strainer in the kitchen sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids, then

Sewer Blockage Formation



The start of a blocked pipe begins when grease and solids collect on the top and sides of the pipe interior.



The build-up increases over time when grease and other debris are washed down the drain.



Excessive accumulation will restrict the flow of wastewater and can result in a sanitary sewer overflow.