



WINTER 2014

Interested in Becoming a Member of the MVSD Board of Directors?

MVSD expects a vacant position on the Board of Directors on or around March 1, 2014. In anticipation of this vacancy, the District Board is accepting applications for appointment to fill the vacancy as allowed for by California Government Code Section 1780.

If you are interested in applying for this vacant board position, please visit www.mvsd.org and fill out the online application on the home page. Applications may be submitted by residents of

the District by forwarding the completed form and a resume to the Board Secretary at the District Offices. Please visit the website for more information on the Board Policy B-70 which governs the procedure for appointment.

The application period will close on February 28, 2014, and the date for interviews in an open public session will be announced once the vacancy has occurred.

UPRR Bridge Replacement Update

Mt. View Sanitary District (MVSD) continues the process of restoring McNabney Marsh with the goal of enhancing wildlife habitat. This 130-acre marsh is a wildlife haven that is connected to the Carquinez Strait by Peyton Slough.

One critical step in this process of restoring the marsh is to replace a Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge over Peyton Slough. This bridge creates a bottleneck for water as it leaves the marsh during low tides. Water becomes trapped in McNabney Marsh, leading to stagnation and water quality issues.



This UPRR bridge will be replaced as part of an effort to improve the wildlife habitat in McNabney Marsh.

This issue was brought to readers' attention in the June 2013 newsletter. Since this time, MVSD has contracted with HDR Engineering to prepare a preliminary design report and to perform environmental permitting work. The first step in this process was to prepare an opinion of probable total project cost. This analysis indicated that the cost of the bridge replacement will increase from an original estimate of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. Because of this increase in expected cost, a preliminary design report will be prepared to determine if there is an alternate project to achieve the same goals at a reduced cost.

The work completed to date has resulted in a surprise. Initial opinions about the bridge were that the crossing was both too narrow and located too high compared to the rest of Peyton Slough. However, based on topographic surveys, it has been determined that the crossing is not too high and is at same elevation of rest of the slough. There is a high point in the slough itself that is restricting the flows in and out of McNabney. Because of this, the project will be expanded to include dredging to eliminate the high spot in the slough.

The District anticipates receiving the preliminary design report from HDR Engineering sometime in the month of February. The next steps will be to evaluate the results and determine what will be the most appropriate project and the best course of action to restore the natural water exchange in this important marshland. Be sure to check out our next newsletter for an update!

MVSD Honors Two Board Members

On December 12, 2013, two Members of the MVSD Board of Directors were honored for their service to the community. Director Stanley R. Caldwell and Gregory T. Pyka were commended for 20 years on the Board. Both assumed office in December of 1993. MVSD appreciates the long-term commitment of these two directors to the District. Two resolutions were passed recognizing each Director for his service.

Over their years at MVSD, Stan and Greg have remained committed to serving the ratepayers by keeping rates affordable, making efficient use of the budget and ensuring that quality service is provided.

They have also attended and participated in a number of adjourned, regular, and special meetings during this period. Both Directors have had excellent attendance, made substantial contributions and have rarely missed a meeting. They each have spent hundreds of hours preparing for meetings, reviewing staff reports, and deliberating over matters to be considered with the other members of the Board at the public meetings.

Their respective efforts have been instrumental in maintaining the health and safety of thousands of residents and their commitment to using recycled wastewater for the reclamation of wetlands has provided an education to



Two MVSD Board Members, (from left to right) Greg Pyka and Stan Caldwell are honored for 20 years of service to the District.

thousands of school children, as well as enjoyment for birders and wetlands enthusiasts throughout the County and the region.

At this same meeting Stan Caldwell was nominated and elected President for 2014 and Greg Pyka Vice President.

Thank you Stan and Greg for your years of service!

MVSD LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



In an effort to improve customer service, MVSD is pleased to introduce an updated website. The new website was launched in early February 2014.

The website can still be found at the same web address as before: www.mvsd.org. All features from the old website will also be available on the new website. You will also find some new material, including a photo gallery with many wildlife photos from McNabney and Moorhen marshes.

The design of the website has been modernized and the layout improved for easier navigation. Website users can more easily find the information they are looking for by choosing from a menu of drop down options across the top of the page. Additionally, this new site will also be compatible with mobile devices for easier viewing.

➤ Be sure to check out our new website at www.mvsd.org and let us know what you think!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MVSD frequently hosts FREE events including workshops and field trips! Learn more about composting or go on a hike around our marshes to view and learn about many diverse bird species!

Visit www.msvd.org, or call (925) 228-5635 for more information about these events. Some may have limited space so be sure to reserve your spot!



EVENT SCHEDULE

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 8, 2014

SUSTAINABLE CITIZEN WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 5, 2014

JOHN MUIR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL EARTH DAY-BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

(Held at the John Muir Historic Site)

Saturday, April 26, 2014

WETLANDS BIRDING FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 17, 2014

WETLANDS BIRDING FIELD TRIP

Saturday, June 14, 2014

WESTERN POND TURTLE WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Resolve to Fight the FOG!

At the beginning of 2014, you may have resolved to make an effort to keep fattening and greasy foods out of your body. At MVSD, we would like to also ask you to resolve to keep these foods out of the drain.

It may be a habit to wash any leftovers down the drain. However, certain foods can cause problems for your sewer system. Many foods are loaded with fats, oils and grease or FOG—think bacon grease, cooking oil, meat leftovers, oily salad dressings, etc.

When poured down the drain as a liquid or in the form of food scraps, this FOG quickly hardens in pipes, causing blockages. Just because you run hot water or the garbage disposal, this does not mean that the FOG will dissolve. As FOG continues to build up over time, it causes the capacity of sewer pipes to decrease. Eventually, this can lead to a complete pipe blockage.

A blocked pipe can lead to a waste water overflow, which can be bad for your personal property, the environment and your wastewater system. FOG backups may cause damage to your home and/or possessions. It may make your home temporarily unlivable and repairs can be very costly. Additionally, when these overflows occur near storm drain systems, it can cause untreated wastewater to enter creeks and rivers, creating a potential health hazard to humans and wildlife. FOG backups are also costly for MVSD in terms of clean up and pipe replacements. We work diligently to keep your rates low, but unfortunately, continual problems with FOG backups could necessitate rate increases in order to cover the cost of the repairs.



Leftover FOG should always go in the trash instead of down the drain. If you have leftover drippings from meats, first allow them to cool completely in a safe place. The remnants will harden, and you can scrape them from the pan into another container like a Ziploc bag or empty jar and toss the leftovers in the trash.

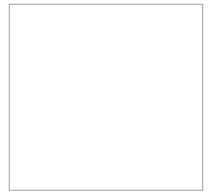
To dispose of used oil, allow it to cool and pour into a disposable container like a bottle, milk jug, or a jar. Wipe remaining FOG from pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.

Remember, it's not just oils and meat drippings that contain FOG. There are many other hidden sources of FOG including creamy sauces and dressings and sour cream. These should be disposed of in the same way.

We appreciate your help in preventing FOG build ups and FOG-related overflows.



MT. VIEW SANITARY DISTRICT
3800 Arthur Road
PO Box 2757
Martinez, CA 94553
925-228-5635



TO POSTAL CUSTOMER

Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Mt. View Sanitary District

As a provider of a public service, transparency is a top priority for MVSD. We strive to use your rates in the most effective manner, and make our fiscal information available for public review.

As a result, MVSD recently earned the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation in recognition of its efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

Sherry Sterrett, California Special District Association Region 3 Board Member and Vice President of the Special District Leadership Foundation Board, presented the award to MVSD at the Contra Costa Special Districts Association January 27th, 2014 meeting.

MVSD Board President Stanley Caldwell, and Director Al Schaal received the award on behalf of MVSD.



Sherry Sterrett of the Special District Leadership Foundation presents the Transparency Certificate of Excellence to MVSD Board Members (from left to right) Stanley Caldwell and Al Schaal.