



California Voting Rights Act Update



Readers may remember a recent discussion in the Mt. View Monitor about the steps MVSD was taking to ensure

compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The Act is found in the California Elections Code and is intended to protect the voting rights of protected classes. Protected class means a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as referenced and defined by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act has generally been used to implement district rather than at-large election of legislative officers in jurisdictions where pockets of minorities claim their voting rights are being diluted by at-large elections.

At the direction of the Board of Directors, MVSD hired a consultant to conduct a demographic analysis to identify whether there are pockets

of minorities within the District whose voting rights are diluted by at-large elections. Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc. (L&G) was retained and asked to perform this demographic analysis for the District.

L&G found that there are not large geographical concentrations of members of groups protected under Federal law in the MVSD service area. They specifically stated that although there are somewhat higher concentrations of Hispanics in the northeastern part of the District and of Asians in the central area, there do not appear to be the numbers and concentrations of Federal Voting Rights Act protected group members that can trigger the Act's requirement to create election districts. Based on the L&G study, the MVSD Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on December 12, 2019 to hear public testimony regarding applicability of the CVRA. If no evidence is received indicating that further study of the issue is merited, the Board of Directors will entertain a motion to adopt a resolution that will

summarize the MVSD actions taken to investigate CVRA's applicability and a determination that there is currently an absence of the numbers and concentrations of CVRA protected group members within the Mt. View Sanitary District that would require a change from the District's current "At Large" election of Directors to district-based elections.

Based on the L&G study, the MVSD Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on December 12, 2019 to hear public testimony regarding applicability of the CVRA.

If the resolution is adopted, the District will continue to elect its Directors "At-Large" and once the 2020 Official United States Census is complete and published, will commission an updated Demographic study to further evaluate any need for district-based elections under the California Voting Rights Act.

MEET THE NEW DISTRICT MANAGER



Lilia Corona has taken the position of MVSD District Manager

MVSD is pleased to announce that 10-year employee Lilia Corona will be taking on the role of District Manager as of October 16, 2019. Neal Allen is retiring after 5 years as District Manager, and nearly 10 years with MVSD. As the new District Manager, Lilia expresses gratitude to Neal and the Board of Directors for moving the District toward improved operations, management of finances, and growing

professional staff. Lilia plans to continue to follow their lead by providing ratepayers with exceptional and cost-effective wastewater treatment service. She has some specific goals for the District and feels that the capable leadership team is prepared to take advantage of available opportunities to make real progress and lead the District to a continuous improvement culture.

Lilia's primary five-year goals for MVSD include:

- The District will have made significant progress on the backlog of deferred maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure.
- The District will have completed a 20 Year Master Plan informed by a rigorous Asset Management Program and a well-developed Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- An Operations training program including Standard Operating

Procedures and core competency evaluations will be fully implemented.

- Staff will continue their dedication to public service, always looking for ways to improve efficiency, effectiveness and customer service.

When asked about the best part of her job, Lilia replied "The best part of my job is serving the public. Public service motivation brings passion that gives me a sense of fulfillment in my job. My goal is to protect public health and the environment by continuously improving efficiencies and the cost effectiveness of District activities to serve the public better. Ultimately, meeting with, and being accessible and responsive to District customers is rewarding."

When not working, Lilia is busy completing a Master of Public Administration degree, spending time with family and gardening.

With Holidays Around the Corner – Keep FOG Out of the Drains!

Holiday celebrations usually include delicious food. What do you do with this food once you and your family can't take another bite? It may be tempting to wash leftovers down the drain. However, this can cause problems for your sewer system. Much of the food we enjoy around the holidays—think turkey, ham and gravy—are loaded with fats, oils and grease or FOG.

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 wastewater overflow, which can be bad for your personal property, the environment and your wastewater system. Additionally, these

overflows when they occur near storm drain systems, can cause untreated wastewater to enter creeks and rivers, creating a potential health hazard to humans and wildlife.

So, what should you do with your leftover FOG this holiday season? Leftover FOG should always go in the trash or green food waste container instead of down the drain. If you have leftover drippings from meats such as turkey or ham, 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.

If you plan on frying any holiday treats, make sure you also properly dispose of your used oil. Allow the oil 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 hope you and your family have a joyful holiday season. We appreciate your help in preventing FOG build ups and FOG-related overflows this holiday season.



Please keep fats, oils, and grease out of the drain!



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Meet the Bufflehead!

The Bufflehead is North America's smallest diving duck. These strikingly colored, large-headed, ducks abruptly dive and resurface as they feed on aquatic invertebrates in shallow water. The males appear to be black and white from a distance, but up close they sport iridescent green and purple feathers that contrast with the white patch on their heads. Females are a subdued gray-brown with a small white patch on their cheek. They nest in in the boreal forests of the US and Canada.



Buffleheads hold the distinction of being the very first species to find the recently filled Phase B Ponds in Moorhen Marsh. MVSD began filling the ponds the morning of January 14, and a small flock (2 males and 4 females) arrived in the big pond near the Interpretive Center around noon the same day. The flock stuck around for over 2 months, exploring all the newly enhanced ponds.

UV System Replacement Project Begins

An average of 1.7 million gallons of wastewater per day reach MVSD for treatment. The final plant treatment process prior to discharge of effluent to Moorhen Marsh is UV disinfection. The ultra-violet (UV) disinfection equipment and controls are now 25 years old, have reached the end of their useful service life, and need to be replaced. The District moved away from chlorine disinfection to prevent the release of toxic chemicals to the environment. Although it was cutting edge technology at the time of its installation, the equipment is now quite old, uses a substantial amount of electrical energy, lacks monitoring equipment that is now standard in the industry and in general requires frequent maintenance with high costs associated. Additionally, this model has been designated as obsolete by the manufacturer, Trojan Industries and is no longer supported. MVSD has contracted with Carollo Engineering and has begun the design process to replace the out-of-date UV disinfection equipment and controls. Future editions of the Mt. View Monitor will provide updates on this important project.



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