



THE IRONHOUSE INSIDER

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

Emergency line: 925-625-2279

Spring 2019

NEW PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

KEY UPGRADES WILL IMPROVE FLOWS THROUGH OLD TOWN OAKLEY

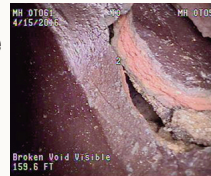
Ironhouse is set to embark on a major capital project in Old Town Oakley to replace aged sewer infrastructure – some of which dates back to the 1940s. The work will begin this summer and preserve reliable service for hundreds of ISD customers.

"These pipes have done their job throughout the years," said ISD Collections Superintendent Louis Solana. "However, they've exceeded their useful life and need to be replaced."

Collections staff identified approximately 1.8 miles of pipes within the project area that will need upgrading over the next few years. They are located in the neighborhoods south of Main Street and

LEARN MORE

A video inspection image shows one of the cracked clay pipes that crews will replace. Visit ISD's website for updates on the project.

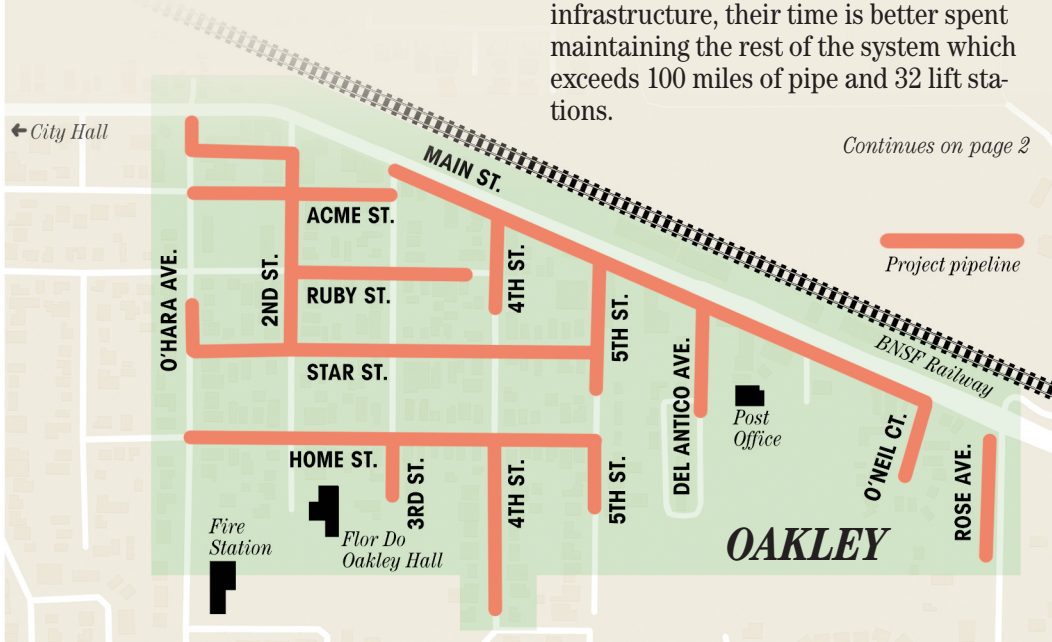


north of Vine Way, and between O'Hara Avenue and Rose Avenue.

THREE PHASES IN ONE

Originally the replacement project was proposed to take place in three phases, but ISD staff determined there would be a considerable cost savings in tackling the issue as one larger project. While ISD collections staff are capable to replace infrastructure, their time is better spent maintaining the rest of the system which exceeds 100 miles of pipe and 32 lift stations.

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Water recycling plant to receive expansion

Expansion of the Water Recycling Facility (WRF) to meet the needs of our growing community is among several key projects Ironhouse plans to tackle over the next six years.

In a reliability study completed last year, Water Works Engineering identified 29 projects that would need to be completed between 2019 and 2025 at the WRF. The District combined these projects with a strategy to replace aging sewer pipelines, creating a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that spanned multiple years.

By completing the highest priority projects for the WRF, the District will improve reliability and efficiency, enhance operations and replace worn parts and equipment.

Several projects on the list have been prioritized as needing to be completed right away, Plant manager Chris Christean looks forward to



Water Recycling Facility to receive major upgrades.

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MORE CWEA ACCOLADES

Ironhouse Sanitary District was honored this winter with a pair of awards from the California Water Environment Association. The District received CWEA's San Francisco Bay Section "Safety Plant of the Year" award, while Collections supervisor **Frank Casey** won the organization's award of "Collections Systems Person of the Year."



Last summer ISD successfully completed a pilot program to land apply biosolids on permitted areas of Jersey Island. The program used biosolids from the Water Recycling Facility to fertilize nutrient-poor fields that are used to grow hay.

“The pilot program showed us that by using biosolids we can help to rehabilitate fields,” said Tyson Zimmerman, ISD’s assistant general manager. “We expect that the land application of biosolids will improve the fields and lead to a significant yield of the crops.”

The District stopped biosolids land application on the island during the wet season months due to the lack of storage, but will resume using them again after the rains end in April through September.

TRANSPORTATION SAVINGS

As biosolids are produced at the Water Recycling Facility, the organic matter needs to be transferred to an off-site disposal site or used for land application. Trucks transfer the material in loads of approximately 20 tons. Ideally these would be maximized to reduce truck traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

“When biosolids were sent



A worker spreads biosolids on a Jersey Island hay field, where the nutrient-rich material will help improve the soil.

BIOSOLIDS UPDATE: FOCUSING ON A FERTILE FUTURE

out we were charged per load rather than per ton. The average load was going out five tons short. Every five loads would be an extra charge,”

said Plant manager Chris Christean. “By adding a scale, we could save a considerable amount of money on transportation costs.”

Staff was able to install the scales themselves. Christean believes the District can recoup the cost of the scales in just over two years. □

PROJECTS

Continued from page 1

quickly completing a couple of those that would immediately improve productivity at the facility.

“Right now, we are working with a temporary alum feed station that is helping us handle wet weather seasonal issues caused by rain water getting into our sewer lines,” Christean said. “This issue is addressed in the CIP and will allow us to build a

permanent fixture at the facility.”

Christean added that incorporating the alum project in the CIP will result in substantial savings, enabling ISD to buy bulk alum at a cheaper price and automate how it is released in the water treatment process.

BETTER SCREENING PROCESS

Another project Christean plans to tackle includes improvements to the WRF’s mechanical bar screen system.

This system employs two sets of screens to remove large pieces of debris from flows that enter the facility. The improvement project will retrofit the existing 6 mm band screens with 4 mm perforated plate screens that will capture more debris and better protect downstream equipment, reducing maintenance costs.

The 2019 projects will be advertised for bid in the spring and are expected to begin later this summer. □

OLD TOWN

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In March the project was put out to bid with local companies that can complete the work quickly and efficiently.

Solana anticipates the bidding process will be completed this spring and work can commence by early summer.

For updates on the Old Town replacement project, keep watch on ISD’s web and social media sites. □



5 DISTRICTS UNITE IN FIGHT ON WIPES

Ironhouse recently joined forces with four other East County wastewater agencies for a three-month campaign aimed at educating residents about the negative effects of disposable personal wipes whose labels claim the products are “flushable.”

The cooperative “No Wipes in the Pipes” campaign sought to demonstrate how even though product manufacturers might promote their wipes as safe to flush down the toilet, the unfortunate reality is that the wipes usually end up clogging sewer pipes and equipment at wastewater recycling plants, with cleanup costs borne by district customers.

Through ads that appeared in newspapers, on billboards and movie theater screens, and on the backs of Tri Delta

Transit buses, the “No Wipes in the Pipes” campaign spread the message that trashing wipes instead of flushing them is a win-win for everybody.



East County isn't the only place grappling with the wipes problem. This spring, state Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) introduced AB 1672, which would require changes to product labeling practices for disposable wipes.

When used properly, disposable wipes can be a safe and convenient household product. Just be sure to dispose of them in a garbage can or covered diaper pail. ■

Chase Elliott joins the team to prevent sewer blockages

STAFF PROFILE

Even while still learning the ropes of a new job and preparing to take his first licensing exam, ISD's newest crew member, **Chase Elliott**, brings a wide array of experience that will serve him well in his role as Collections System Operator I.



ISD's Chase Elliott draws from a wealth of experience in his new role as Collections System Operator I.

AVERTING OVERFLOWS

Collections operators maintain wastewater system facilities to help ensure public health and safety by preventing and responding to sewage overflows and blockages.

Chase previously worked for Tracy's streets and maintenance division and spent time at a firm that did underground duct work for Sacramento Regional Airport. Those jobs helped prepare him for the work he'll be doing in his new career at ISD.

“I've worked at a lot of different places and the staff is the key to enjoying a job,” he said. “I've seen

at Ironhouse that everyone gets along well and the people care here. I really enjoy the work and that's important to me.”

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By coincidence, Chase shares his name with one of NASCAR's rising young stars, and both have fathers named Bill. But it's not so much the need for speed that rules this Chase's weekends — you'd more likely find him casting his line at the nearest fishing tournament, he says. □

START SPRING WITH A CLEAN CULVERT

Warmer weather and springtime precipitation can overwhelm culverts that may have become clogged during the winter, leading to slow drainage or even flooding. The good news is that you can help keep your culverts in working order.

Regularly inspect culverts for obvious blockages. Clearing debris is the simplest and most effective step to minimize potential flooding.

In addition to debris obstructing their openings, culverts can become

filled with silt or damaged over time. Water can cause erosion near openings, which can invite other problems.

Don't forget to check for corrosion. Metal culverts will eventually rust, leading to culvert failure, potholes in the overlying surface, and a higher risk of washouts.

Remember it is illegal to drain rainwater into ISD's sewer systems. Runoff from personal property must be directed only to stormwater ditches, culverts and storm drains. □



ADMINISTRATION

Chad Davisson/G.M.
Tyson Zimmerman/Assistant G.M.
Chris Christean/Plant Manager
Louis Solana/Collections Supt.
David Dal Porto/Ranches & Levees

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Public meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. and the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Peter Zirkle/President
Dawn Morrow/Vice President
Chris Lauritzen/Director
Doug Scheer/Director
Susan Morgan/Director

SDLF certified 'District of Distinction' and 'Transparency Certificate of Excellence'





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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- 📅 **April 16:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- 📅 **May 7:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- 📅 **May 21:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.



This newsletter is printed using recycled paper. Every ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

Recycled water station will return for summer

In its ongoing commitment to helping customers conserve water, ISD plans to reopen its Residential Recycled Water Fill Station for the summer season beginning June 1.

Now in its fifth year, the fill station provides local residents and businesses with recycled water free of charge that can be used for irrigation purposes. Up to 300 gallons can be dispensed per visit.

Since the station opened in 2015, more than 800 people have signed up to use the service. Many return regularly for water to irrigate lawns, trees and gardens. Recycled water can also be used to wash cars and clean off driveways and decks.

Anyone from Oakley or Bethel Island can sign up to receive recycled water free of charge. Residents from outside ISD's service area can obtain the recycled water for a nominal fee.

For more information on the program and updates for this summer season, visit <http://ironhousesanitarydistrict.com/236/Recycled-Water-Fill-Stations>. □

LIVE RAPTOR SHOW

Take a hayride tour and learn how ISD turns dirty water into sustainable, clean recycled water ready for reuse.

Saturday, April 6
10 AM - 1 PM

FREE EVENT
Live Bird Show
Arts & Crafts

Located at:
Ironhouse Sanitary District
450 Walnut Meadows Dr.
Oakley

For details on this event go to:
www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

For Oakley Science Week go to:
www.ci.oakley.ca.us

An Oakley Science Week Event at ISD.

