



THE IRONHOUSE INSIDER

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

Emergency line: 925-625-2279

Spring 2016

A FEW DROPS OF WISDOM

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT RECYCLED WATER

Despite reports that the winter rains could possibly loosen state water restrictions, ISD's Residential Recycled Water Fill Station was thrilled to see 69 visitors and gave away more than 15,000 gallons of water on the first Saturday in April, proving that local residents are still interested in potable water alternatives to keep their lawns and plants green.

A recent survey found that 76 percent of Californians recognize that water conservation is still critical to sustain California's long-term water needs, and believe recycled water should be used as a solution for managing water resources, regardless of whether a short-term water shortage continues.

WATER FOR EVERYONE

ISD couldn't agree more and will continue to offer a free recycled water service throughout this spring and summer to Oakley and Bethel Island residents. Out of town residents interested in using our recycled water in their gardens and landscaping also will be able to

Continues on page 3

69

Number of customers who visited the ISD Residential Recycled Water Fill Station the first Saturday in April.

74,000

Most gallons of water given away in a single summer day to customers of ISD's Residential Recycled Water Fill Station.

76%

Californians who view recycled water as a long-term water management solution.

52%

Amount of California's water used to irrigate crops and green spaces such as parks or lawns.

30%

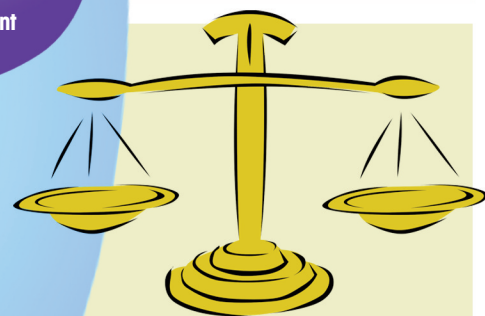
Amount of water saved by Diablo Water District users during peak months in 2015.

Sewer benefits in Main Street project

As the City of Oakley begins a project to revitalize its downtown by improving roads, sidewalks and landscaping on Main Street between Norcross Lane and Second Street, ISD will take the opportunity to slip in some improvements on one of its oldest sewer pipes. The sewer pipelines in the downtown Oakley area are over 45 years old.

This pipeline is included on the district's list of "hot spots" throughout town that require capital investment for rehabilitation or improvement as part of the district's Sewer System Management Plan, or SSMP. Another important rea-

Continues on page 2



Balanced budget holds rates stable

These days it seems the cost of everything is on the rise, but at least your sewer service fees will be unchanged for the next year.

ISD continues to identify and implement operating efficien-

Continues on page 4



650 KIDS TOUR ISD

OAKLEY MIDDLE SCHOOLS VISIT RECYCLING FACILITY

More than 650 sixth-grade students from Delta Vista and O'Hara Park middle schools spent two days in March exploring the process of how dirty water is treated at ISD's Water Recycling Facility and turned into clean, reusable water. The event was part of the school district's Oakley Education Science Week.

"We're really excited that



Ironhouse gave 99.7 percent of our sixth graders a chance to participate in the tour," said Delta Vista principal Harvey Yurkovich.

The day started with a hayride to the Water Recycling Facility

where students saw how wastewater arrives at the facility from their homes. Then came a walking tour to the aeration basin where bacteria rather than chemicals are used to naturally begin the process of cleaning the water.

Students also saw the membrane basins and ultraviolet light station, the final stage before the water is piped to Jersey Island, redistributed to customers via ISD's recycled water fill stations, or released to the Delta. □



Sixth-grade students from O'Hara Park Middle School in Oakley gaze upon one of the aeration basins at the Water Recycling Facility, just one of the stops on a walking tour to learn about the wastewater treatment process.

SEWER

Continued from page 1

son the district has chosen to make the investment at this location now is that once the city finishes work on this part of Main Street, there will be a moratorium on cutting into the street for anything but major emergency work. The district does not want to risk having to make a costly emergency repair after the city completes its roadway improvements.

ISD maintains two 6-inch diameter sewer pipelines within this portion of Main Street with 21 lateral connections that lead to downtown businesses.

The ISD board in April reviewed three options for the project: replace the Main Street pipes now at a cost of roughly \$440,000; do nothing at this time; or make targeted repairs at a cost of approximately \$77,000, based on an engineering estimate, to reduce the risk of a structural failure occurring within the moratorium period.

The chosen option – targeted repairs – fixes intruding laterals and a broken section of pipe, as well as replaces 79 feet of pipeline sags in four separate locations in the Main Street line that have required additional maintenance. These repairs will allow this location to be removed from the hot-spot list, reducing the chances of a blockage.

Two board members recused themselves from the vote because they own businesses in the affected project area. □

CASA forum looks at recycled water future

Leaders for wastewater agencies throughout the state, including ISD General Manager Chad Davisson, attended a public policy forum in the state capital in April sponsored by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) on water reuse.

The program at the Sutter Club in Sacramento featured speakers including Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Los Altos) and Marc Levine (D-San Rafael).

Gordon, who chairs the Assembly Rules Committee, shared his perspec-

tive on water recycling, conservation, climate change and other water issues.

Reviewing his legislation supporting water recycling, Levine, the chair of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee, also expressed interest in several CASA sponsored renewable energy bills.

Paige Brokaw, consultant to the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, talked about her committee's role in evaluating water recycling legislation. □



ISD General Manager Chad Davisson (center left) visits with other wastewater management professionals during the CASA/WaterReuse Joint Public Policy Forum, which took place in Sacramento.

RECYCLED

Continued from page 1

do so for a nominal fee of \$1 per load, which allows the district to provide recycled water to those outside ISD's service area without creating any additional cost impact to ISD ratepayers.

ISD opened its recycled water fill stations for residential and commercial users last June in an effort to help residents ease the pain of the drought and provide dust control for construction uses after the governor mandated water use restrictions. Between

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help increase weekday hours for the ISD Residential Recycled Water Fill Station. For details, call 925-625-2279 or see our website.

June and the end of December ISD supplied more than 10 million gallons of recycled water to the community.

With ISD's help, the Oakley community and Diablo Water District exceeded state conservation goals, saving about 20 million gallons of potable water. ISD wants to continue to support

the water district's conservation efforts this year.

Feedback from last year's fill station customers revealed that not only did they avoid wasting potable water on outdoor plants, lawns, trees and gardens, but they also save money on their water bills.

As a utility district planning for the future, ISD realizes there is nothing more critical to our community than sustainable water. Keep a watch on the fill station sign on Main Street for current operating hours or see our website. □

Learning about what makes your sanitary district unique

I started here at ISD last July 15. In these past months, I have learned so much about all of the different aspects that make our district so unique.

Many of us go through our busy lives flushing our toilets, showering, washing dishes, etc. without much thought to what happens after all that water goes down the drain. Furthermore, ISD collects our fees for providing these sanitary services as a line item on the property tax bill, rather than sending out monthly "sewer bills," which also may keep our services out of people's minds.

A VAST NETWORK OF PIPES

As a result, many may not realize the district has over 120 miles of sewer pipelines and 32 sewer pumping stations that collect over 2 million gallons of wastewater daily. This water is then treated through a state of the art microfiltration plant, producing arguably the finest quality recycled water in the county.

Another unique attribute of the district is Jersey Island. Through ISD, ratepayers own Jersey Island, which the State Department of Water Resources considers to be one of the islands critical to pre-



serving the water quality of the Delta and managing salty seawater intrusion.

MORE THAN CATTLE AND HAY

Owning Jersey Island provides the district with unique opportunities to administer cattle ranch and hay farming enterprises as well as a myriad of recreational activities including fishing, hunting and education.

I am proud to manage a district and support a board that is committed to providing our services in the most compliant, environmentally and fiscally responsible manner possible. As such, we are going through the process of evaluating the district's services, refining our vision as an agency and establishing organizational goals that will enhance our value to the community. Stay tuned!

As always, I welcome any opportunity to answer any questions, or provide any information I can about the district. Please feel free to call the district or stop by anytime. □



THE BOARD

Doug Scheer/President
Susan Morgan/Vice President
David Contreras/Director
Chris Lauritzen/Director
Michael Painter/Director

ISD board meetings

Public meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

IRONHOUSE SANITARY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Chad Davisson/General Manager
Sue Walde/District Secretary
Chris Christean/Plant Manager
David Dal Porto/Ranches & Levees

450 Walnut Meadows Drive,
 Oakley, California 94561

Phone: 925-625-2279 • Fax: 925-625-0169
 e-mail: ironhousesd@isd.us.com

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com



District Transparency
 Certificate of Excellence Recipient





Ironhouse Sanitary District
450 Walnut Meadows Drive
Oakley, CA 94561

**Emergency 24/7 contact
number: 925-625-2279**

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakley, CA
Permit No. 001

ECRWSS

PO Box Holder
Postal Customer
Oakley, CA 94561

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 7:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- **July 4:** District holiday. Offices closed.
- **July 5:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Aug. 2:** ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.

Check the district website for special dates



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

RATES

Continued from page 1

cies, staffing reductions and visionary decisions by the district's board. As a result of these efforts, the district will not increase fees to keep up with escalating costs for providing services.

"We're very happy to be able to keep our rates the same for this budget year," said Chad Davisson, ISD general manager.

ISD collects an annual Sewer Service Fee from each property, business or residence connected to the sewer system. The fee is collected by the county assessor and appears as a separate line item on property tax statements. The current rate is \$658 per year, or \$54.83 per month, per equivalent service unit.

After reviewing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, the district determined that it could continue to conduct business in a compliant and environmentally efficient manner without raising rates at this time.

ISD's budget is focused on meeting its mission of protecting the public health, safety and the environment through responsible wastewater collection, treatment and water reuse, while also planning and preparing for the future. □

OAKLEY SCIENCE WEEK FUN

ISD co-hosted the annual Oakley Science Week on April 23 with a day of environment education-themed activities for children and their families. Visitors got to make handcrafted biodegradable pots for tomato plants, learn about hawks and owls during a wild bird show presented by Lindsay Wildlife Experience, and take hayride tours of ISD's Water Recycling Facility.

