



THE IRONHOUSE INSIDER

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

Emergency line: 925-625-2279

Autumn 2017

PRIME TIME FOR RECYCLED WATER

LEGISLATION WOULD HELP UNTAPPED RESOURCE REALIZE FULL POTENTIAL

California is making great strides toward a greener future, but more state and federal funding is needed before the full benefits of recycled water can be realized.

That was the message of a recent news conference hosted by Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Livermore), at which Ironhouse Sanitary District General Manager Chad Davisson spoke about the important role of recycled water in the Golden State's future and the efforts under way to make non-potable water available for reuse.

WEST IS BEST FOR WATER REUSE

Congressman McNerney was unveiling his new bill, the Water and Energy Sustainability through Technology (WEST) Act, which he envisions will support innovative technologies and infrastructure for urban and agricultural areas, as well as efforts to improve efficiency.

"Initiatives like the WEST Act would be a great help in offering funding to build the necessary infrastructure we need to deliver ISD's high quality recycled water through-



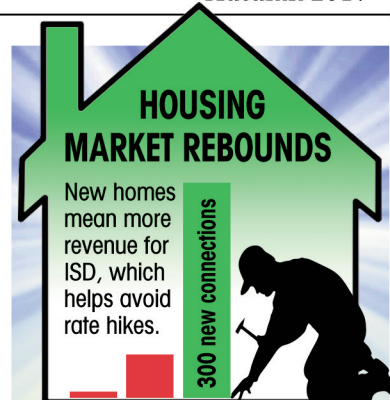
ISD General Manager Chad Davisson (left) speaks with Rep. Jerry McNerney about the congressman's WEST Act, which would pave the way for broader use of recycled water. (Photo courtesy Aaron Davis/East Bay Times)

out Oakley and Bethel Island for street median irrigation and more," Davisson said.

A couple of weeks after the news conference, Congressman McNerney, along with staff members of other local politicians, toured ISD's Water Recycling Facility to learn more about the latest technologies in treating wastewater.

Since the treatment facility opened in 2011, ISD's goal has been to find ways to

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2017-18 budget: fees unchanged

There have been many changes at ISD in the two years since Chad Davisson became general manager, but one important thing that has remained the same is the cost of your sewer service fees.

The ISD Board of Directors recently approved the budget for the new fiscal year.

A key component of the new budget kept rates unchanged at \$658 per year or \$54.83 per month for residential customers.

"We're very happy to be able to continue to keep our rates the same for the second year in a row and avoid increases," Davisson said.

ISD staff streamlined costs without compromising on safety or quality of service. Each department identified opportunities for operational efficiencies and implemented them.

Another factor that has helped is the rebound in the

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Irrigation for lawns and highway median strips is among the many uses for recycled water that will become commonplace in the coming decade.

FORCE MAIN IMPROVEMENTS

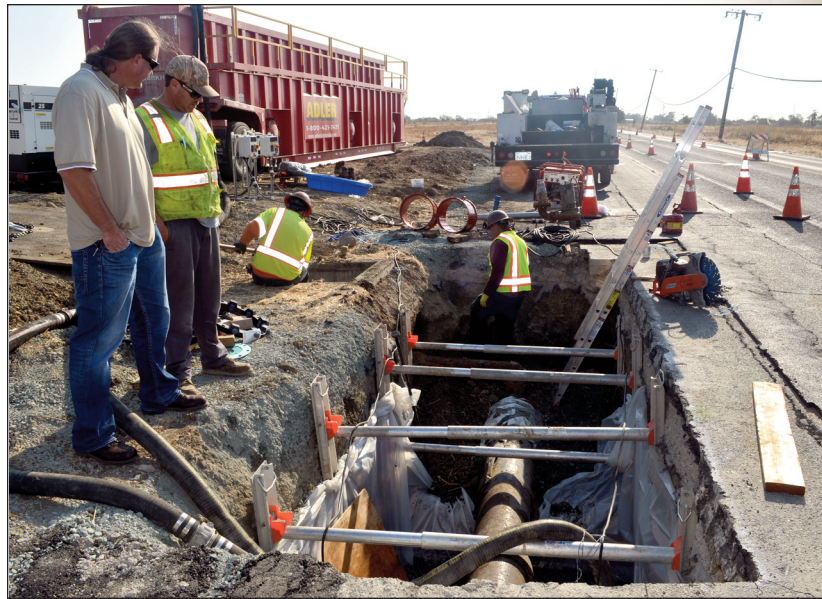
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WORKERS AS THEY INSTALL VALVES TO BRING NEW LIFE TO OLD PIPES

If you are traveling between Oakley and Bethel Island over the next month, please keep an eye out for roadside crews working on underground pipes along Bethel Island and East Cypress roads. Contractors and ISD staff will be repairing the force main that runs underground along these roads.

The project includes the installation of a 14-inch valve that will allow for operational flexibility of the sewer system. Additionally, the original ductile iron air relief valves that have reached the end of useful life will be replaced with stainless steel air release valves.

“Using stainless steel is much more durable than the old ductile iron valves and should last a lot longer than the existing valves,” said ISD Maintenance and Collections Superintendent Louis Solana.

ISD put the project out to bid in early spring. Work began in early August and is expected to be



A construction crew performs underground work on the force main near Sellers Avenue.

complete at the end of September. During this time, crews may need to direct traffic around the project. Please use extra caution to ensure everyone's safety.

Expect to see crews at three major work sites, beginning just

south of the Bethel Island Bridge and across the road from Wells Lane. Other locations include west of Sandmound Boulevard near The Tail Wag Inn Veterinary Hospital and at the corner of East Cypress Road and Sellers Avenue. □



WATER

Continued from page 1

bring its high quality recycled water back to the community for non-potable reuse, such as irrigation for road medians or parks.

Those efforts were outlined in a 2015 Recycled Water Feasibility Study staff report, which made clear that success might take 10 to 20 years to achieve.

But much has changed since 2015. One of the biggest obstacles to the acceptance of recycled water has always been public perception and concerns

about health safety. However, the popularity of ISD's Recycled Water Fill Station has demonstrated that non-potable water is both safe and convenient for public use.

BEYOND FIGHTING THE DROUGHT

Like many sanitary districts, ISD opened its fill station in summer 2015 during the height of the drought, giving district residents access to a virtually unlimited supply of free recycled water to help irrigate lawns, trees and gardens. Users are educated in the proper storage and handling of

recycled water, while also becoming familiar with its environmental benefits.

In light of this progress, as well as forthcoming legislation like the WEST Act and California Assembly Bill 574, which would require incorporating recycled water for potable use by 2021, ISD's staff revisited the Recycled Water Feasibility Study to build upon the 2015 report.

The new supplemental report identifies recycled water projects that could be implemented immediately, and recommends longer-term projects

for further investigation. The report also reflects changes within the community, such as an increase in development within the city of Oakley, and the now defunct idea of the Oakley Generating Station power plant, both of which would be potential key consumers of recycled water.

The new supplemental report, which is available on our website, explores new opportunities for recycled water. These include regional partnerships to promote sustainable solutions into the future. □

Board takes look at future uses for Jersey Island property

Over the next few months, ISD's Board of Directors will be looking over proposals to determine long-term goals for district-owned Jersey Island.

In 1993 Ironhouse purchased the 3,500-acre ranch property located between Oakley and Bethel Island along the San Joaquin River for the purpose of disposing its treated wastewater. For nearly 25 years ISD has used this water recycling method to grow hay, which is used to feed approximately 2,500 head of ISD owned cattle per year.

The island has served its purpose well, however with improved technologies and new water recycling goals, ISD's Board is now exploring alternative uses for Jersey Island.

Two study proposals are under review.

One option is to use the island for land application of biosolids, which are a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process. Currently ISD pays to have its biosolids transported to another location for disposal. But recent changes in state policy will soon preclude the



ISD uses Jersey Island for farming hay and grazing cattle. New methods of water reclamation may open the land for other uses.

ability of districts to dispose of biosolids in landfills.

The Board will study whether there is any cost savings in disposing

the biosolids on ISD's own property, and also identify whether the island can be used as a regional biosolids disposal site for other agencies.

Another option being explored is whether current Jersey Island operations are the best use of the asset.

Current operations include cattle and hay farming. An analysis is underway to determine alternative uses for Jersey Island.

It is important that all assets of ISD are achieving the greatest benefit for its ratepayers. □

BUDGET

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housing market. New construction in Oakley over the past couple of years has helped to broaden ISD's ratepayer base and bring in increased revenue.

There have been 300 new connections in just the past year.

ISD collects an annual Sewer Service Fee from each property connected to the system. This fee appears as a separate line item on property tax statements.

The current sewer service charge fee will stay in effect through June 30, 2018. □

First-year maintenance operators making the most of their ISD opportunity

STAFF PROFILE

Openings in the Maintenance and Collections crew this spring made room for two new entry level positions at ISD. **David Garcia** and **Ian Robertson** are both collections operators working toward their Maintenance Worker I license within the next year.

As entry level operators, Robertson and Garcia perform a variety of semi-skilled and skilled work in support of ISD's wastewater collection system including installation, inspection, preventive and corrective maintenance and repair activities.

They also assist in performing underground televised wastewater line inspection and cleaning of waste-



Ian Robertson worked in construction demolition and carpentry before he joined ISD, following in the footsteps of his father.

water lines and mechanical repair of stationary pump and lift stations and mobile equipment.

Garcia, a father of five who has lived in Oakley 17 years, previously worked as a carpenter for the building industry. He had performed resi-



David Garcia

dential and finish carpentry for 20 years when he heard from a friend about the benefits of obtaining his California Water Environment Association's training.

"With four children ages 15, 10, 5 and 1 month, I was already looking for something that could offer better benefits, but this has worked out so much bet-

ter for me," Garcia said.

Robertson had been waiting for an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of his father, Eric, who worked at ISD for many years.

The Brentwood resident previously worked in construction demoli-

tion and carpentry on commercial buildings.

So far Robertson has been learning about maintenance on pumps and lift stations.

"It is amazing the stuff you find that people flush down the drain," Robertson said. □



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

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





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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 23: Heart of Oakley Festival. Come visit us at our booth.
- Oct. 3: ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- Oct. 17: 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.



LET'S TACKLE FOG IN EVERY RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN



Help stop Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG) from entering your pipes and the environment!

DON'T

- Don't pour oil and grease down the drain.
- Don't put food scraps down the drain
- Don't run water over dishes, pans and fryers to wash oil and grease down the drain.
- Don't rinse off oil and grease with hot water.

DO!

- Put used FOG in covered containers and bring to ISD for proper disposal.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into the trash.
- Remove FOG from pans and place in a container for proper disposal.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Cover kitchen drain with catch basket and empty debris into garbage can as needed.

Why should I help?



- ❖ Prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines.
- ❖ Stop sewer overflows into yards and streets.
- ❖ Avoid spending money on costly cleanups of sewage spills and regulatory fees.
- ❖ Reduce the number of times you have to clean your pipes.
- ❖ Protect the quality of our water.

Ironhouse Sanitary District
FOG Disposal Building
450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 AM - 5 PM
Saturdays (until 9/30) 8 AM - 1 PM
www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK—SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2017