

History of Ironhouse Sanitary District

1945-2025



July 2, 1945: Oakley property owners petition the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to begin the process of forming a sanitary district.

August 21, 1945: Contra Costa County approves a ballot measure calling for the formation of the Oakley Sanitary District (OSD) by a unanimous vote of 112-0.

August 1945: OSD's first Board of Directors created. President Joseph Augusta, Secretary Frank Dal Porto, Sanitary Assessor Frank J. Silva, Director Hasten "Shorty" England, Director Tony Vengley, Director Jesse Mello, and Director Anthony Dal Porto.

June 6, 1960: Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) is formed.

1964: Concerned property owners in Hotchkiss Tract area launch efforts to replace their septic tanks with a sewer system.

March 2, 1965: Diablo Water District (DWD) is formed.

November 21, 1967: County Sanitation District No. 15 Citizen's Advisory Committee is created in response to the Hotchkiss residents.

March 29, 1977: A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is signed between Oakley Sanitary District and Bethel Island, establishing the Oakley-Bethel Island Wastewater Management Authority (OBIWMA). The Authority's Board consists of two members each from OSD and Sanitation District 15, plus one member at large.

1978: Sewer system becomes operational in District 15 boundaries.

1983: Sanitary District 15 hosts groundbreaking to build a stabilization pond, which is a natural method for wastewater treatment.

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January 31, 1992: OSD annexes Bethel Island, the JPA is dissolved, and the district merges with OBIWMA and Sanitary District 15.

February 1, 1992: The new entity is renamed the Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD), borrowing its name from a rural schoolhouse that once served the area of Oakley and Hotchkiss Tract. Two board members from the Bethel Island area are added.

1993: ISD buys 3,600 acres on Jersey island for its disposal needs. New administration offices are built on Walnut Meadows Drive in Oakley.

1994: ISD builds aeration ponds as a means of cleaning wastewater brought to the district from Oakley and Bethel Island.

1996-97: Provided additional aeration as part of interim expansion of existing treatment facility to accommodate residential growth.

July 1, 1999: The city of Oakley is officially incorporated and added to the ISD service area.

October 15, 2011: ISD opens its new state-of-the-art Water Recycling Facility. The plan receives the California Association of Sanitation Agencies award for technological achievement.

2013: ISD installs a 1.1 megawatt solar panel system to offset electrical power costs at the Water Recycling Facility.

June 20, 2015: Residential Recycled Water Fill Station opens. Commercial recycled water fill station debuts two weeks later.

April 2017: ISD receives the California Eater Environment Association's "Plant of the Year - Small Agency" award from the State of California.

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- **2019-2020:** The Old Towne Pipeline Improvement Project is completed.
- **2022:** Cattle operations cease on Jersey Island.
- **2024:** ISD debuts new logo.
- **October 18, 2025:** ISD celebrates its 80th Anniversary.