



A SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION 'DISTRICT OF DISTINCTION' RECIPIENT

THE IRONHOUSE INSIDER

www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com

Emergency line: 925-625-2279

Spring 2017



DON'T SEND RAIN DOWN OUR DRAIN

PUMPING STORMWATER INTO SEWERS IS ILLEGAL AND LEADS TO OVERFLOWS

THE PROBLEM:

Property owners trying to cope with flooding are pumping water directly into ISD's collection system, which was not designed for such use. The result is sewer backups and overflows which affect public health and safety.

This winter's heavy storms forced many Bethel Islanders to deal with flooding they haven't seen in years, and some residents have resorted to creative ways to dispose of unwanted water on their properties. Unfortunately, some of the solutions have included illegally pumping standing water into ISD's sewer lines, creating havoc within the sewer collection and treatment systems.

"We understand that Bethel Island residents have been hit by the storms especially hard," said Chad Davisson, ISD general manager. "Unfortunately, removing their sewer clean-out covers and redirecting hundreds of thousands of gallons of water to enter an already inundated sewer system isn't the answer."

Ironhouse does not run a combined sewer-storm system. This illegal activity of draining or pumping storm water into the sewer system has already led to sanitary sewer overflows, which ISD has reported to

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CLEANING UP: ISD WINS FOUR TOP PRIZES AT REGIONAL AWARDS COMPETITION

ISD received four prestigious awards of excellence from the San Francisco Bay Section of CWEA, the California Water Environment Association. The honors are for "Plant of the Year," "Collection System of the Year," "Newsletter of the Year" and "Community Engagement and Outreach: Project of the Year." The "Plant of the Year" award recognizes ISD's accomplishments in compliance, cost effectiveness and superior plant performance. The "Collection System of the Year" award recognizes ISD's efforts to protect public health and the natural beauty of the environment through proactive practices of management, operations and maintenance. The

"Newsletter of the Year" award recognizes excellent community outreach and engagement efforts through the information provided in the quarterly Ironhouse Insider newsletter. The "Community Engagement and Outreach: Project of the Year" award recognizes ISD for the March 2016 Water Recycling Facility tour provided to 700 sixth-grade students, teachers and chaperones over two days. This tour included both Delta Vista and O'Hara Park middle school students as part of the Oakley Science Education Week program. CWEA works to enhance the education and effectiveness of California's wastewater professionals through training and certification.



MEET OUR NEW ADMIN CREW

ISD recently welcomed three new faces to fill the positions of assistant general manager, district secretary/office administrator, and administrative technician/records management specialist. ISD was able to fill these positions with highly qualified professionals whose experience includes work with special districts, the wastewater industry and records management.

TYSON ZIMMERMAN/ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Originally from Arizona and later Southern California, Tyson brings a wide array of business management and engineering skills to his new position. His most recent accomplishment was developing an asset management program as a tool for capital planning of over \$60 billion in linear and non-linear assets.

At Ironhouse, Tyson will work directly with General Manager Chad Davisson and ISD's lead staff on implementing ISD's strategic initiatives as well as updating its policies and procedures and human resource management programs.

CECILIA GOFF/DISTRICT SECRETARY AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

A longtime Oakley resident, Cecilia brings more than 16 years of experience working for local public agencies. Prior to joining ISD, she worked as the assistant district manager and board secretary for another



er local special district.

In her new role, Cecilia provides governance support to the general manager and directors as well as oversees business operations and supervises the administrative support staff. She is responsible for recording proceedings and maintaining the agenda and minutes of each public meeting.

SUSAN PAZ/ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Looking for new opportunities, Susan joined ISD as temporary staff help in summer 2016. This year, she took on a permanent position and added new responsibilities.

With her previous experience working as a distribution manager at a major corporation, she developed a thorough knowledge of record keeping as well as led internal and external audits. This experience will come in handy as she plans, directs and administers ISD's comprehensive records management program to ensure compliance with records retention requirements. □

PUMPING

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the California Water Resources Control Board. It also adds considerable costs in employee overtime and energy consumed by unnecessarily pumping this storm water. This additional flow also overloads the Water Recycling Facility leading to water quality violations and costly corrective procedures.

"If our treatment capacity is exceeded, inadequately treated waste could be discharged into the San Joaquin River, which can be a health and safety issue," Davisson said.

ISD has strict rules against residents pumping storm water from flooded properties into the sewer system and there are heavy penalties for violators. Pumping storm water into the sewer system is a crime punishable by fines of \$1,000 and/or 30 days in jail. Violation of this ordinance can also result in immediate disconnection of sewer service.

ISD has issued several cease and desist notices to individuals it has observed engaging in prohibited conduct. If the conduct continues, ISD has an obligation to its ratepayers to recover costs associated with these illegal discharge activities, and will pursue appropriate administrative and legal action.

Davisson asks that residents share this information with friends and neighbors to help prevent further costly and unhealthy sewer overflows in island neighborhoods. For more information, contact Ironhouse Sanitary District at 925-625-2279. □

ISD general manager and directors receive their leadership certifications

Recently ISD's general manager Chad Davisson completed the Special District Leadership Foundation's (SDLF) Special District Administrator Certification program. This voluntary program helps docu-

ment and recognize a candidate's knowledge, skills and capabilities as a Special District administrator. The program included such information as governance, policy development, strategic planning, orga-

nization, budgeting and finance.

ISD's Board of Directors also received training in good governance, budgeting, board member best practices and more from SDLF. This program goes above and beyond the

required Ethics Training (AB 1234) and Harassment Prevention Training (AB 1825) that every board member must take to hold the position as a California Special District Board director. □

MEN AT WORK: UNDERSTANDING ISD'S SEWER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT'S UP HIS SLEEVE
MAY BE A LEAKY PIPE

You never know what you'll encounter in the field, so ISD's maintenance crews prepare for anything, including a fast fix for this damaged sewer main discovered recently on Taylor Place on Bethel Island. Heavy vehicle traffic cracked the aging pipe several feet beneath the roadway. The crew excavated the site, then pumped out the groundwater. After cutting out the failed section of pipe and sizing a replacement piece, ISD's Dominick Gardiner applied the repair and retightened the transition coupling. Good as new!



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Lead mechanic keeps equipment in top shape

STAFF PROFILE

Finding a white work truck with just the right parts and equipment for ISD's collections and maintenance staff isn't easy. Many times it takes several modifications to get the trucks just right for the field work. It is those times that ISD turns to its lead mechanic, **Michael Fuller**.

For the past seven years Fuller has been handling the mechanical needs for everything from a simple tune-up for the various types of trucks in service at ISD, to the tractors and equipment used for its farming and cattle oper-



Lead mechanic Mike Fuller maintains ISD's fleet of work vehicles.

ation on Jersey Island.

"We're a small district and we need specialized equipment," Fuller said. "We design and outfit all our trucks in house."

Before coming to ISD, Fuller worked in

heavy equipment and automotive computer diagnostics. He is also licensed to work on emissions systems.

"We have picky guys here who want it just so," he said tongue-in-cheek. □

Wipes offer convenience, but flushing them will clog pipes

Convenient "flush-Cable" wipes – the kind used to clean a baby's bottom, take off the day's makeup or disinfect the bathroom sink – are costing ISD and its ratepayers thousands of dollars a year in labor and equipment maintenance to remove and dispose of them after being flushed down the toilet.

"Used wipes really only have one place, and that is in the trash," said ISD Collections Superintendent Louis Solana. "Nothing besides toilet paper and human waste should ever be flushed down the toilet."

Unfortunately, not even bathroom wipes advertised as flushable are safe enough to flush away. These wipes may go down the drain when you hit the flush lever, but once inside the sewer system they fail to decompose and con-



tribute to clogs in homeowners' laterals, the main sewers, and at pump stations.

Because both Oakley and Bethel Island are on relatively flat terrain, pump stations are needed to

move wastewater through the sewer system. In total, ISD operates 34 individual pumping stations, which means that even if the wipes do not get stuck in residential or business laterals or the main sewer, there is a good chance they will get stuck in the pumps at the pump stations.

ISD's maintenance crew clears wipes from an average of 15 to 20 pump stations a month. "This is not only costly to ratepayers, but any spills or overflows throughout the system caused by these wipes can be a health hazard," Solana 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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www.ironhousesanitarydistrict.com



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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 15: Oakley Science Week (see ad)
- April 18: ISD Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- May 2: ISD Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. for regularly scheduled meeting.
- May 16: 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 needs help to stay open

ISD is preparing to keep its Residential Recycled Water Fill Station open throughout this summer.

The ISD Board of Directors has authorized staff to reopen the fill station in June and keep it open through September, but that is only if ISD finds enough community interest to justify the expense.

To help reduce expenses and keep the service free to Oakley and Bethel Island residents, the hope is that community volunteers will step forward to help. ISD intends to open the fill station three days per week (including Saturday), while we evaluate the public's level of interest.

Please check our website for more information as we get closer to June. ☐

LIVE BIRD SHOW

HAWKS, OWLS AND MORE

An Oakley Science Week Event At Ironhouse Sanitary District

Saturday, April 15
10 AM - 1 PM

Red-Shouldered
Hawk



FREE EVENT

Live Bird Show
Tours of the ISD Water
Recycling Facility
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