

UNION SANITARY DISTRICT

PROTECTING THE TRI-CITIES AND
SAN FRANCISCO BAY



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SPRING 2015 – NEWSLETTER

USD'S NEW COGENERATION FACILITY

POWERING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY TO HELP KEEP RATES LOW

A lot of power is needed to run a wastewater treatment plant! USD is proud to announce the completion of a brand-new facility that will help us to become more energy-independent. Two new cogeneration engines will use the methane gases produced by our treatment processes to generate power for our 33-acre plant in Union City.

A gas-conditioning system cleans the methane for engine use. We anticipate the \$14.5 million project will save the District up to \$1.6 million annually on its power bills; this amounts to enough energy to power up to 2,266 homes annually.

Cogeneration isn't new to USD. The District has used the process for more than 30 years. As our old engines came to the end of their useful life, we planned for larger, more efficient replacements capable of saving even more on



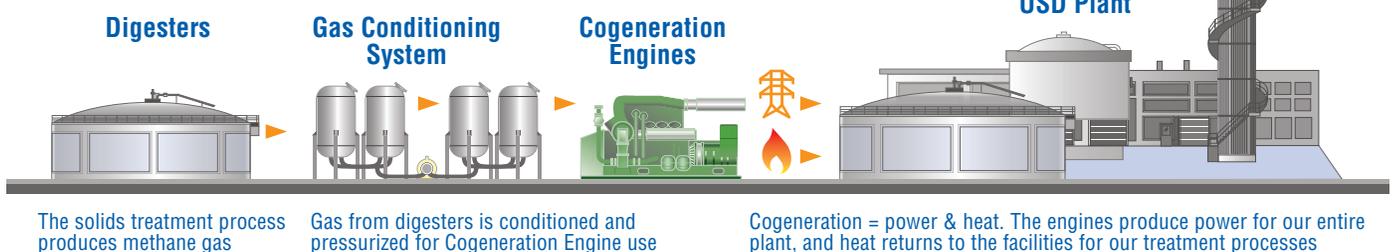
USD's new cogeneration engines are guided into place. They were lowered into their building by cranes through a 30' tall roof.

power costs and making better use of a renewable energy resource.

"Wastewater treatment is an energy-intensive process, and we're always looking for ways to reduce our operational expenses," says General Manager Paul Eldredge. "At about \$2 million per year, power costs are a significant portion of our budget. This investment in larger, more efficient cogeneration units continues our stewardship of the environment, and helps us keep rates low for our customers."

Project Details:

- Equipment:
 - Two 850 kW engine generators, 12 cylinders, 36.7 liters each
 - Gas Conditioning System (chillers, tanks and blowers to clean gas)
- Housing: 5,000 sq. ft. metal building, 30 ft. tall
- Total Project Cost: \$14.5 million
- Construction: April 2013 to February 2015
- Enough energy to power up to 2,266 homes annually



JOIN US AT OUR TREATMENT PLANT OPEN HOUSE ON MAY 9, 2015



We know - you've probably never thought of visiting your wastewater treatment plant. You may not be too familiar with us, but we're a BIG part of your daily life, and would like the opportunity to share a bit about the work we do for you. Join us for fun and

interesting demonstrations at our Union City Treatment Plant Open House on Saturday, May 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We'll show you the equipment and processes we use to protect public health and the environment 24/7/365.

Here are just a few of the things you'll discover:

- What happens to wastewater? Tour the plant to find out
- Visit the on-site laboratory and meet USD's certified chemists

- See demonstrations of the specialized vehicles and equipment used to maintain the plant, 7 pump stations, and over 800 miles of sewer lines in the Tri-Cities

We have dozens of buildings, thousands of pieces of equipment, and remarkable information to share. Enjoy some refreshments and have fun with us.

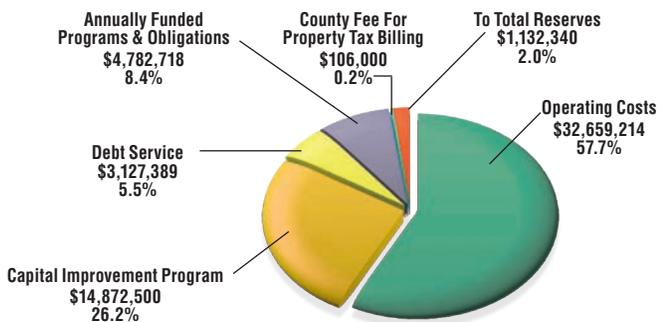
Call (510) 477-7500 or e-mail us at contactusd@unionsanitary.ca.gov for more information.

BUDGET IN BRIEF

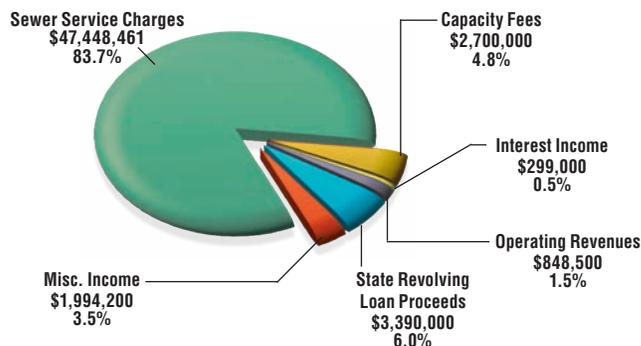
Serving the Tri-Cities, Union Sanitary District is a complex collection of facilities that includes over 800 miles of sewer lines, 7 pump stations, and the buildings and equipment at our Union City Wastewater Treatment Plant. In total, the District is responsible for operating, maintaining and replacing over \$643 million worth of assets.

Through careful fiscal planning, USD safeguards these public assets and efficiently uses its resources to provide award-winning service at low rates to all residents and businesses in the Tri-Cities. Currently our rates are in the lowest 15% of the 27 Bay Area agencies surveyed. We strive to keep costs down, but some expenses (e.g. power, chemicals for treatment, and health care) require that we periodically re-evaluate our rate structure.

Total Expenditures – \$56,680,161



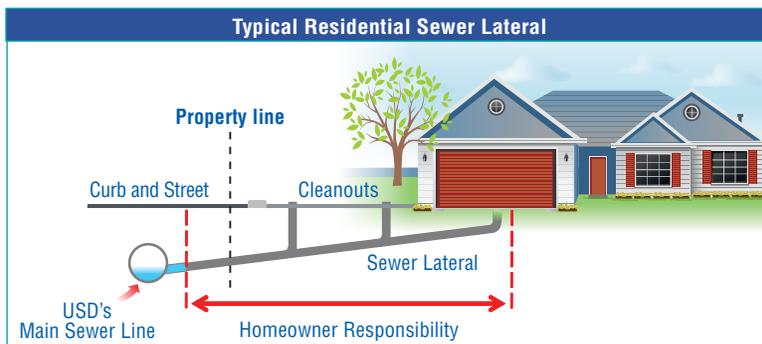
Total Revenues & Proceeds – \$56,680,161



CARING FOR YOUR SEWER LATERAL CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

A sewer lateral is a pipe that connects the plumbing system in your residence or business to USD's main sewer line. Property owners are responsible for maintenance, repair or replacement of their entire sewer lateral up to its connection to USD's main line, including portions located under sidewalks and streets (see exhibit at right.) Keeping your lateral clear of grease, wipes and roots can help you avoid costly, messy backups, as well as a sewer lateral repair or replacement. Some helpful tips:

- Discard cooled cooking oil and grease in your **GARBAGE**. For disposal of large quantities, contact Republic Services at (510) 657-3500.
- To be safe, we recommend that you dispose of **ALL** wipes in the trash - even the ones that claim to be "flushable." Wipes don't break down like toilet paper, and can latch onto roots or grease in your lateral, leading to backups.
- If caught early enough, roots can be removed. Like "checking under the hood," a lateral inspection by a licensed plumber can help you to find roots and other problems that, left unattended, could require costly repairs.



Property Owners are responsible for the entire lateral from the building to where it meets USD's main sewer line. We take care of the rest.

For more tips about keeping your lateral healthy, check our website at www.unionsanitary.ca.gov or call us at (510) 477-7500.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Keep Fats, Oils and Grease OUT of your drains!** They can solidify and cause messy backups into your home, onto streets and down storm drains, where they can reach our local creeks and the bay.
- **Don't flush medicines!** Treatment plants (including USD's) are not designed to remove medications from wastewater. Pharmaceuticals can pass through our treatment process into the Bay, where they may have a detrimental impact on fish and wildlife. USD partners with Washington Hospital Healthcare System and Haller's Pharmacies to provide seven FREE disposal locations in the Tri-Cities. Contact us to find a convenient location.
- **Keep wipes out of your pipes.** Those "flushable" wipes aren't so flushable. While they may flush down your toilet, they don't break down like toilet paper, and can bunch up to clog not only your pipes, but also our pumps. **ONLY HUMAN WASTE AND TOILET PAPER SHOULD GO IN YOUR TOILET.**

Need more information? Check our website for details: www.unionsanitary.ca.gov, or call us at (510) 477-7500.

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