JULY 2009

NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

What You Should Know About Novato's New Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Valued Customer,

You may have heard that Novato Sanitary District is nearing completion of its new, $90 million state-of-the-art community wastewater treatment plant. The good news: it is being completed on time and on budget. The new plant should be up and running beginning this fall.

Selecting The Best Way to Operate the Treatment Plant

For months, the Novato Sanitary District staff and Board of Directors have been exploring options to find the best way to operate the new plant while phasing out the old plant. The transition from an old and obsolete plant to a new one is not an easy one.

By no later than this summer, the Board must choose the way it will operate the new plant so that it can begin operation in the fall. One option is to contract out operations to a single company experienced in wastewater treatment plant start up to take on this task. The other option is to hire teams of consultants to provide the needed assistance. The decisions cannot be delayed.

Starting up the new treatment plant and bringing it to full operation will take almost two years. In the meantime, the District must simultaneously continue operating its existing treatment plant. Operating both plants at once for almost two years will require extensive training for the new sophisticated equipment, and developing over 100 detailed new management and operational procedures.

Contract operations are a common and effective way of operating public facilities. For example, the City of Novato contracts out operation of its swimming program, Novato Sanitary has contracted out Novato's trash pickup and countless businesses contract out construction, legal, landscaping and many other services.

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See the other side for the Facts and Fiction about the wastewater treatment plant and contract operations.

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A small group has been spreading incorrect information about the District and possible contract operation of the treatment plant. Here are the facts:

Fiction: **Contract Operation Is Privatization And Globalization**	***Fact:*** **Locally Elected Board of Directors Retains Full Control** Regardless of what approach is used to operate the wastewater treatment plant, the District's locally elected Board of Directors will retain full control, including setting policy and rates. The District can cancel an operating contract at any time. The treatment plant will remain permanently publicly-owned.
Fiction: **Rates And Costs Will Increase with a Contract Operator**	***Fact:*** **Contract Operations Is the Lowest Cost Option** Contract operations has been consistently shown to save money. The District will save over $1 million each year if they select contract operations. The claim of increased rates are simple scare tactics.
Fiction: **Contract Operations Is Environmentally Questionable**	***Fact:*** **Certified Green Business and Environmental Steward** Novato Sanitary District has a long history of protecting the environment and taking action to be a good environmental steward. For example, the District is a certified green business, provides recycled water for irrigation, supplies hundreds of acres of wetlands and pasturelands with recycled water, and generates its own power from treatment gases. Our commitment to the environment is strong.
Fiction: **Lost Jobs**	***Fact:*** **Employees Guaranteed Jobs at Comparable Wages** The District's treatment plant employees are guaranteed that any contract operator must hire them at comparable wages, benefits and at their current seniority for a minimum of three years. The employees' union has signed this agreement.
Fiction: **Sanitary Services will Decline**	***Fact:*** **Service Guarantees Protect Ratepayers** If we contract out to an experienced contract operator, they will be required to meet high quality levels. All the other customer service and field workers will remain employed by the District. With a contract operator, the District (and your taxes and fees) are protected from liabilities, problems or lawsuits that could arise from starting up and operating the new plant.

Still Have Questions?

Join a Tour and See for Yourself

Tour #1, Saturday, July 18, 9:00 A.M. **Tour #2**, Saturday, July 25, 9:00 A.M.

Come to a Meeting

Special Location. Margaret Todd Senior Center: 1560 Hill Rd, Novato

Monday, July 20 Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Review of proposals from contract operations companies, questions and answers.

Monday, July 27 Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
The Board of Directors is scheduled to make a decision.

Contact Us

Call: (415) 892-1694 E-mail: info@novatosan.com Web: www.novatosan.com

Novato Sanitary District has been serving the Novato Community for more than half a century. It is committed to fine service, public health and a quality environment. We will always honor that commitment.