

## Manager's Corner

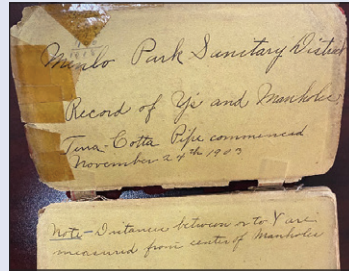


by Sergio Ramirez  
General Manager

When I reflect on where West Bay Sanitary District (District) has been and where we are headed, I'm inspired for the future. It's hard to believe that the District has been serving the community of southern San Mateo County for 120 years. It took a petition signed by 35 residents, to the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County, requesting that an election be called to vote on the formation of the sanitary district. Residents such as Senator C. N. Felton, Edward R. Eyre, J. Leroy Nickel, Spencer E. Slade, J. R. Doyle, M. F. Duff, M. W. Dooley, John MacBain, John H. O'Keefe, E. W. Hopkins, and George A. Batchelder just to name a few, were among the petitioners. An election was then held at the old Menlo Park Hotel (now Springline – The Residences) on December 10, 1902. This established the

Menlo Park Sanitary District under the Sanitary District Act of 1891. Because of its expanding service area, the District received a name change to West Bay Sanitary District in 1981.

The first Board of Directors voted in were: George Batchelder, Senator C. N. Felton, E. W. Hopkins, John MacBain, and Spencer E. Slade followed by Timothy Hopkins, E. J. Pringle, Perry Eyre, Thomas Gregory, Joseph Donohoe, and Charles Merrill. Timothy Hopkins was a long time Board of Director and John MacBain served as the District's first Superintendent and Manager. District records show Patrick Kearney was hired to clean the sewer system on a regular basis for



1903 field record book



over 25 years. Some of Mr. Kearney's record entries are found in this 1903 field record book (left). One of his first entries is of pipes and manholes being installed at the corner of Fair Oaks Lane and Middlefield Road in Atherton.

In 1948 the District purchased its first office and corporation yard on 2.76 acres of land from the United States War Assets Administration, within the old Dibble General Hospital, formerly the Hopkins Estate. The District's administration building once stood where the Menlo Park Police Station is, not far from our current location on 500 Laurel Street in Menlo Park.

The District, just as the surrounding area, has always been progressive and eager for progress. In the 1980's the District decommissioned its wastewater treatment facility behind Bedwell Bayfront Park to help form the South Bayside System Authority treatment plant, now Silicon Valley Clean Water, in Redwood Shores. The old treatment facility will be repurposed with a 600 - 800 thousand gallon per day recycled water facility to bring reclaimed water back to our residents and business community. The water is specified to meet stringent Title 22 water reuse standards used for landscape irrigation as well as toilet flushing in commercial buildings. The reclaimed water distribution system will begin in the Bayfront area of Menlo Park with a goal to eventually reach the District's office and the City of Menlo Park's Civic Center and Burgess Park. The facility could not come at a better time in light of the prolonged drought and increased water scarcity.

As the District's General Manager, I am proud of our history, purpose, and excited about what the future has in store for our community.



## WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT AWARDS

The District's recycled water program was awarded two Recycled Water and Sustainability awards in 2022! In May of 2022, the District and its contractors (Anderson Pacific Engineering Construction, Inc, Waterworks Engineers, Woodard & Curran, and Freyer & Lauretta) received the American Public Works Association (APWA) Silicon Valley's Project of the Year award. The first award was for the West Bay/Sharon Heights Recycled Water Treatment Plant in the category of a \$5M to \$25M Sustainable or Green project. The second award was for being the Recycled Water Agency of the Year in the small category. The award was given by the WaterReuse Association of California. Both of these awards recognize the Districts and its partner's contributions in support of greater adoption of water reuse.

To that end, as the second year of operation winds down for the West Bay/ Sharon Heights Recycled Water Treatment Plant, the District is proud to report delivery of over 54 million gallons of recycled water in 2021, and over 55 million gallons (and counting!) for 2022. This reuse project has been a tremendous asset to both the partnership and local community by relieving the municipal water system of over 100 million gallons of potable drinking water. This has provided a reliable local water supply that reduces vulnerability to droughts and other water supply constraints.

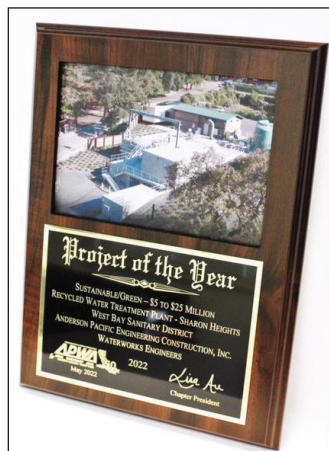
Also in 2022, the District embarked on the planning and design phase of a new Recycled Water Facility at Bedwell Bayfront Park. This new facility has the potential to deliver 600,000 – 800,000 gallons per day of recycled water for community purposes such as irrigation, toilet flushing, cooling towers, and landscape irrigation.

In addition to providing a dependable, locally-controlled water supply, water recycling provides tremendous environmental benefits. By providing an additional source of water, water recycling can help us find ways to decrease the diversion of water from sensitive ecosystems. As water energy demands and environmental needs grow, water recycling will play a greater role in our overall water supply. Water recycling, along with water conservation and efficiency, can help us to sustainably manage our vital water resources well into the future.

Funding for this \$22.6 million recycled water project (West Bay Sanitary-Sharon Heights) has been provided in full or in part by Proposition 1. The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. Funding has also been provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is capitalized through a variety of funding sources including grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and state bond proceeds.



WaterReuse Association of California's 2022 Recycled Water Agency of the Year



American Public Works Association (APWA) Silicon Valley's 2022 Project of the Year

## WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT PUMP STATIONS

Have you ever wondered what lies behind these closed doors? West Bay Sanitary District owns and operates 11 lift stations throughout the South San Mateo County service area. Wastewater flows from houses and businesses using a network of underground sewer pipelines. Ninety percent of wastewater in the Sanitary District flows from home to treatment plant using the power of gravity. In some instances, wastewater will reach a point where it can no longer flow by gravity and therefore requires pumping to a higher elevation in order to continue its journey to the treatment plant. Each lift station has a minimum of two pumps to help push the wastewater to a higher point in the system where it will continue to flow towards the treatment plant using gravity. This process continues throughout the District until all the wastewater makes it to the Menlo Park Pump Station located at the corner of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park. Once the wastewater reaches the Menlo Park Pump Station, it is pumped out to our regional treatment plant, Silicon Valley Clean Water. The lift stations are constantly monitored by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA). This high level monitoring system alerts the pump crew if the wastewater in a pump station is getting too high or too low, the PG&E power is out, or if any other parts fail. These sites require weekly maintenance, which is performed by the Districts pump crew. So please remember whatever you put down your drain enters these pump stations and can cause the pumps to fail. So now you know and thank you for being careful with what is flushed down your toilet and house drains.



Pump Stations



Participating in the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation's Tour de Menlo

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

This year West Bay Sanitary District has taken special pride in giving back to the community by adopting a family during the holiday season and giving gifts to the less fortunate. In addition, West Bay was the proud sponsor of community events such as the Menlo Park Concert in the Park and provided important community resource information at the Belle Haven Community Fair. Recently the District sponsored the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation by participating in the Tour de Menlo to raise funds for need-based college scholarships for local students and other charities such as Boys & Girls Club, the Second Harvest Food Bank, and Life Moves. District staff will help provide jackets for those in need this holiday season by participating in Coats for Kids.