



## **SUPPORTING A HEALTHY BAY:**

# PLANT UPGRADE IMPROVES WATER QUALITY

Recent algal blooms in San Francisco Bay have increased public awareness about possible contributors to these occurrences. Although the triggers for specific events are not known, nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus in water bodies have been a nationwide concern for many years. The Bay has a long history of high nutrient levels, but tidal action, high turbidity, and other factors have historically reduced impacts. Now there is concern the Bay could reach a tipping point that would affect its health.

Nutrients are naturally occurring compounds that may cause algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle, leading to adverse impacts to water quality, food resources, and habitats as well as to decreases in oxygen that fish and aquatic life need to survive.

While nutrients are just one potential contributor to algal blooms, USD is one of 37 regional wastewater agencies participating in scientific research to increase understanding of how nutrient levels impact the water quality of the Bay. The State's Regional Water Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will use the research to develop nutrient management policies. New nutrient reduction regulations at wastewater treatment plants are expected in the near future.

USD's Enhanced Treatment and Site Upgrade Program (ETSU) Phase 1A is currently under construction and includes projects that reduce nutrients. The ETSU Program also updates aging infrastructure and provides resiliency to sea-level rise and extreme wet-weather events at our Union City treatment facility. These improvements will help to support the next 40 years of reliable, cost-effective service to the Tri-Cities.

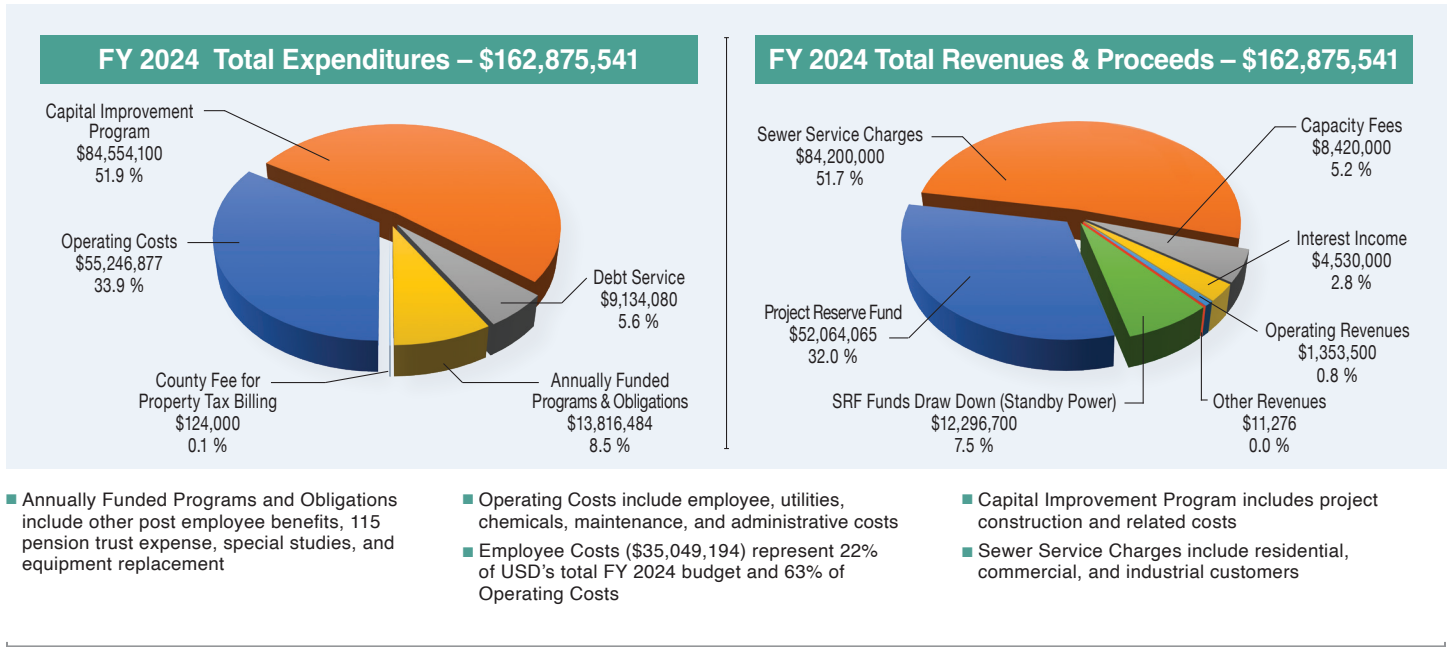


## **USD's ETSU Aeration Basins Modifications project will reduce nutrients in SF Bay**

Want to know more about the ETSU program and USD's work to reduce nutrients in treated wastewater? View an animated "flyover" video illustrating the entire Phase 1 program on our website: [unionsanitary.ca.gov/etsu](https://unionsanitary.ca.gov/etsu).

# BUDGET IN BRIEF

USD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to residents, businesses, and industries in the Tri-Cities. The District manages 839 miles of sewer lines, seven pump stations, and the buildings and equipment at the 33-acre treatment plant. Through careful fiscal planning, we safeguard these public assets to ensure responsible maintenance and reliable service to customers at the lowest feasible rates.



## COURTESY RATE ADJUSTMENT NOTICE:

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 SEWER SERVICE RATES

On May 11, 2020, the District's Board of Directors held a public hearing and adopted Ordinance 31.40, which established sewer service charges for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025. Prior to the public hearing, the District participated in a public workshop and mailed a notice of the public hearing and informational brochure to all property owners in the service area.

Annual sewer service charges are collected on the Alameda County property tax roll. The charges appear on the tax statement as a single line item and are listed as "Union Sewer Svc." Sewer service charges are not a property tax and are not related to the assessed value of a property. They represent a charge for a service provided. The District includes the annual charges on property tax statements to save the administrative cost of generating and mailing separate invoices.

	Last Year's Rate FY 2023	This Year's Rate FY 2024
<b>Residential (\$ per Dwelling Unit)</b>		
Single Family Residences (per Unit)	\$530.21	\$569.97
*Multiple Family Residences (per Unit)	\$467.24	\$502.28
<b>Commercial (\$ per 1,000 gals)</b>		
Strong	\$14.61	\$15.71
Moderate	\$7.07	\$7.60
Weak	\$5.93	\$6.37
Fast-Food Restaurant	\$14.72	\$15.83
Full-Service Restaurant	\$14.74	\$15.85
<b>Industrial</b>		
Volume (\$/1,000 gals)	\$3.48	\$3.74
COD (\$/1,000 lbs)	\$395.26	\$424.91
Suspended Solids (\$/1,000 lbs)	\$1,061.30	\$1,140.90
<b>Minimum Charge for non-residential customers</b>	\$467.24	\$502.28

\*Examples of multiple family residential dwelling units include condominiums, townhomes, and apartments

USD's Fiscal Year is defined as July 1 through June 30

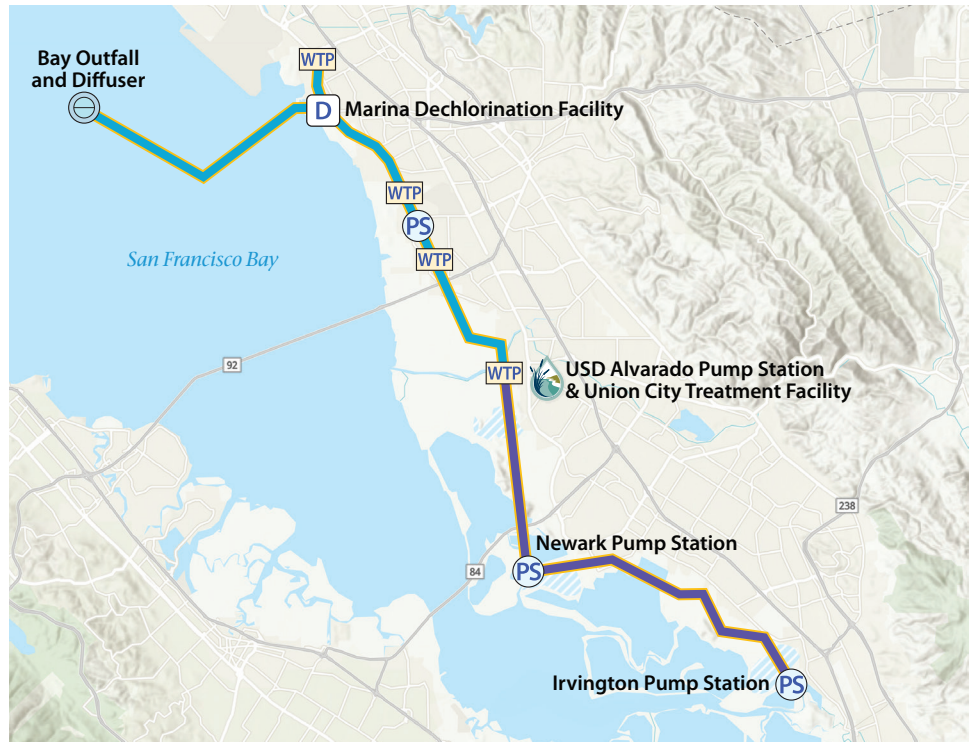
The adjacent table depicts last year's rates and the new rates for FY 2024. If you have any questions, call the District at (510) 477-7500 or email: [rates@unionsanitary.ca.gov](mailto:rates@unionsanitary.ca.gov).

# EAST BAY DISCHARGERS AUTHORITY: REGIONAL PARTNERS PROTECT THE BAY

Many years ago, USD had three wastewater treatment plants: Irvington (in south Fremont), Newark, and Alvarado in Union City. The Irvington and Newark plants disposed of treated wastewater in the Bay south of the Dumbarton bridge, as did several other agencies in the region. Amendments to the Clean Water Act in 1972 led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine the Bay was too shallow in many areas to receive wastewater at the level of treatment that was widespread at that time.

USD teamed up with East Bay sanitary districts and cities to explore solutions, forming the East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA). This is where the concept of a shared large-diameter line that would discharge treated wastewater further offshore and in deeper waters of the Bay was developed.

Twin pressurized lines called Force Mains and three large pump stations were completed in 1980 to transport wastewater from the Irvington and Newark locations to the Alvarado



— USD wastewater transport system to Union City treatment plant  
— EBDA treated wastewater transport system

Treatment Plant, where it is treated and sent to the much larger EBDA line. USD's treated wastewater is joined by the discharges of our EBDA partners as it travels north underground near the East Bay's edge. The combined discharges, averaging 60 million gallons per day, undergo a final process that removes chlorine

to safeguard marine life, then travel about seven miles into a deeper shipping channel in the Bay and are dispersed through a diffuser. All EBDA members contribute to the cost of operating and maintaining EBDA facilities to meet the wastewater needs of customers and protect San Francisco Bay.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### KEEP FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG) OUT OF YOUR DRAINS!

Cooking oils, shortening, salad dressings, and other FOG can clog your lateral and cause messy backups into your home, onto streets, and down storm drains, where they can reach local creeks and the Bay. WIPE IT, SCRAPE IT, AND COMPOST IT instead: Wipe cooled pans with a paper towel or scrape small amounts of solidified grease into a compostable container, then place these in your compost or green bin. Collect large amounts of used cooking oil in plastic bottles with caps to drop off at Republic Services, 42600 Boyce Road in Fremont, during business hours.

Questions?  
Contact USD



Want to know more about the subjects in this newsletter? Find more detailed information on our website by using this QR code or web address: [unionssanitary.ca.gov/indepth](http://unionssanitary.ca.gov/indepth). Have a comment, question, or subject you'd like to see covered? Please email us at [contactusd@unionssanitary.ca.gov](mailto:contactusd@unionssanitary.ca.gov).





# USD

TRI-CITY WASTEWATER

5072 Benson Road  
Union City, CA  
94587-2508

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO 604

ECR WSS

## SEWER LATERAL QUESTIONS? WATCH OUR VIDEO

- **View useful information for property owners**, including tips for contacting USD if you think you have a sewer problem, researching a licensed, insured drain cleaning company or plumber, actions you can take to keep your sewer lateral healthy, and more. Check it out at [unionsanitary.ca.gov/lateral-video](http://unionsanitary.ca.gov/lateral-video).
- **Your 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.** This includes portions located under sidewalks and streets (see exhibit below).
- **Do's and Don'ts for a Healthy Lateral:** Only human waste, soaps, toilet paper, food ground in a garbage disposal, household cleaning products, and over-the-counter drain cleaners should go into your sewer line. Keep wipes, paper towels, tissues, fats, oils, grease, medicines, and toxic chemicals out of your lateral.
- **If a problem is found in your lateral, before any work begins, a USD repair permit is required** (even for repairs on private property). Call (510) 477-7500 for more information.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Manny Fernandez</b> , <i>President</i> Union City	<b>Pat Kite</b> Newark
<b>Jennifer Toy</b> , <i>Vice-President</i> Fremont	<b>Anjali Lathi</b> Fremont
<b>Tom Handley</b> , <i>Secretary</i> Fremont	

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

**Paul Eldredge**  
*General Manager*

**Mark Carlson**  
*CFO/Business Services Manager*

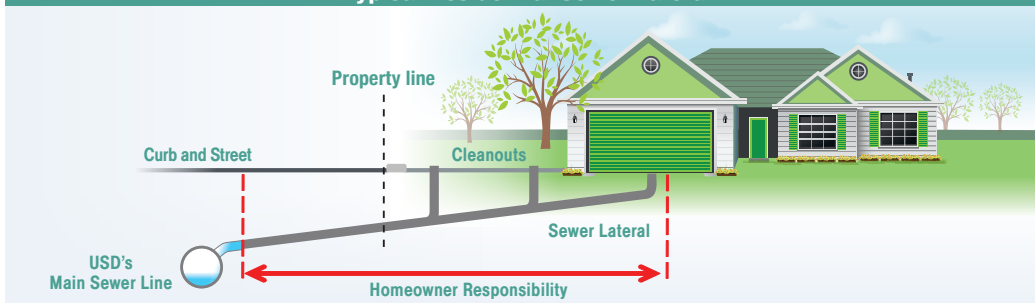
**Raymond Chau**  
*Technical Services Manager*

**Armando Lopez**  
*Treatment & Disposal Services Manager*

**Jose Rodrigues, Jr.**  
*Collection Services Manager*

**Robert Simonich**  
*Maintenance & Technology Services Manager*

#### Typical Residential Sewer Lateral



#### From USD's Lateral Video



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

### UNION SANITARY DISTRICT'S MISSION:

To safely and responsibly collect and treat wastewater, and to recover resources from process waste streams, while protecting human health and improving the environment in a way that benefits the Tri-Cities and all USD stakeholders.