

# THE HERON

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District

Winter 2013



## LGVSD Launches New Recycled Water Treatment Facility



LGVSD Board Members and supporters cut the ribbon at the facilities celebration on September 25, 2012.

This fall marks the beginning of an era in which recycled water is produced at the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD) Treatment Plant and delivered to the North Marin Water District (NMWD) to be used for irrigation and other approved applications. (See "Recycled Water: A Track Record for Safety" on page 2).

On September 25, 2012, the two districts celebrated their partnership with a dedication ceremony

for LGVSD's newly constructed and expandable Recycled Water Facility and NMWD's new recycled water and distribution system. The highly treated, reusable water began flowing to the north county's Hamilton area on September 26, 2012.

"Reusing treated wastewater from our homes and businesses makes good sense because

it saves precious Russian River water supply for other important purposes and provides beneficial summer discharge capacity to meet our treatment plant's NPDES permit," said Mark Williams, LGVSD General Manager.

As has been done since the early 1980's, the LGVSD treatment plant will continue to send some of its treated wastewater to Marin

## It's Time to Have Your Pipes Inspected!

### Take advantage of our Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Broken sewer laterals can cause pollution, which harms the environment and impacts public health. That is why Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District has established an assistance program that provides low interest loans to property owners who want to voluntarily inspect and repair their aging sewer laterals.

A sewer lateral is the connection between your home and the sewage collection system. Because of the age of many of our homes and the abundance of trees, many sewer laterals are prone to root intrusion, which can cause sewer overflows in your home and the environment. Leaking laterals greatly increase the volume of water entering the sewer system,

*continued on page 2*

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## Grant Funding Offsets Recycled Water Treatment Facility Construction Costs

As part of the District's commitment to fiscal responsibility and maintaining affordable rates for its customers, LGVSD applied for federal and state grants which funded over \$1.6 million of the approximately \$8 million Recycled Water Facility construction costs.

Those grants included:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant: \$871,000
- Federal WaterSMART grant: \$335,000
- California Department of Water Resources: \$381,250 (Integrated Water Resources Management Plan)

## Our Commitment to Safety

In accordance with The California Department of Public Health's strict Title 22 requirements:

- The LGVSD recycled water plant will provide a high degree of treatment and disinfection.
- Recycled water will be delivered through purple pipes that are completely separate from drinking water pipes.
- Routine inspections will be conducted to ensure no cross-connection between drinking water pipes and recycled water pipes has occurred.
- A sophisticated computerized control system and a staff of state-certified operators will continuously monitor the water recycling plant and water distribution system.

# Recycled Water: A Track Record for Safety

Many communities throughout the state, the country, and the world are turning to recycled water as a reliable, drought-proof water supply for non-drinking purposes. In the United States, recycled water has been safely used since 1929. Communities that take advantage of recycled water must adhere to strict health and safety guidelines that require routine testing.

In California, the State Department of Public Health and the Regional Water Quality Control Board carefully regulate the treatment and use of recycled water. These agencies create and enforce some of the strictest water quality regulations in the world. They govern production, transmission and use, as well as the prevention of runoff and cross connections between drinking water and recycled water systems.

Recycled water is being safely and successfully used in this state to irrigate parks, playgrounds, school fields, wildlife habitat, recreation areas and landscaping. It is also



*Throughout the world, more farmers are turning to recycled water as a reliable source for crop irrigation.*

used for toilet flushing, fire suppression and in industrial processing in some California cities. Many farmers throughout the state use recycled water to irrigate a variety of food crops, including grapes, strawberries, lettuce, celery, artichokes and broccoli.

Recycled water usage in residential front and backyard irrigation is just starting to catch on in California. In states such as Arizona, Florida and Texas, it has been in use for many years.

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Municipal Water District (MMWD), where it is further treated to recycled water standards and used for irrigation, car washes, cooling towers and toilet flushing.

Last year, the District produced 426 million gallons of treated wastewater during non-discharge months of May through October. Of that, 140 million gallons were delivered to MMWD for advanced treatment and reuse. The new LGVSD Recycled Water Facility will be



able to take wastewater not sent to MMWD, treat it to an advanced level and send it to northern Marin County, via NMWD, where it will be reused primarily for irrigation.

At the September Recycled Water Facility Dedication Ceremony, representatives from local and state government, LGVSD and NMWD staff, and the general public gathered at the new facility to celebrate water reuse as part of the community's long-term solution to water supply issues for today and into the future.

*Photos at right: LGVSD Board Chair, Larry Loder, shares 1976 drought stories with the celebrating audience; Steven Moore of the State Water Resources Control Board addresses the crowd on the importance of using recycled water in our state. Left: LGVSD GM Mark Williams and MNWD GM, Chris DeGabriele, shake hands at the ribbon cutting.*

*Event photos: Sue Nelson*





## LGVSD Trails Offer Hiking, Biking, Views and More

At the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Treatment Plant, four miles of public trails are open to walkers and cyclists. There they can enjoy wildflower displays, bird and wildlife watching, and the serenity of unobstructed views of San Pablo Bay and its surrounding hills and wetlands.



*Freshwater Marsh*

The District's 3.5 mile trail is part of the Bay Trail, which is a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. It will connect the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties, link 47 cities, and cross the major toll bridges in the region. To date, approximately 310 miles of the alignment—over 60 percent of the Bay Trail's ultimate length—have been completed.<sup>1</sup>



*Western Fence Lizard*

Our 383 acre reclamation area includes 200 acres of pasture irrigation fields, two treated wastewater storage ponds and a freshwater pond with three islands that are popular with nesting birds. The area provides homes for wildlife and migrating and resident birds including raptors, blue herons, clapper rails, egrets and pelicans.



*California Clapper Rail*

<sup>1</sup> Source: [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org)

## Prepare for the Rainy Season

### How to Prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows



1. Take advantage of the Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Assistance Program (see article on page 1) for inspecting and repairing the connection between your home and the sewage collection system. Cracks due to age or root intrusion will increase the amount of storm water entering the system, potentially causing an overflow in your home and adding to the volume of water entering the treatment plant, which can cause violations and fines.

2. Never connect outside drains to your sewer lateral or send rainwater into it. It is harmful and illegal to purposely discharge rainwater into your sewer lateral or the District's sewer system.

3. Never plant trees or shrubs directly over or near sewer lateral lines; roots can damage pipelines.

4. If you have roots cleaned from your lateral and they are pushed into the public main, please call the District so we can retrieve them before they cause a sewage blockage. This is a free service.

5. Never dump grease, kitty litter, cleaning wipes, personal wipes (even those designated as "flushable"), or other items down drains or into the toilet. These can cause blockages and sewer overflows in your home and wreak havoc at the treatment plant.

Our crews respond to emergencies 24/7! **Report Sewer Spills quickly: (415) 472-1734.**

300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone (415) 472-1734 • Fax (415) 499-7715  
www.lgvsd.org

**Board of Directors**

Megan Clark  
Russell R. Greenfield  
Craig K. Murray  
Judy Schriebman

**Board Meetings are**

held at 4:30 p.m. on  
the second and fourth  
Thursday of each month

**District Administration**

Mark. R. Williams, General Manager

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which can lead to sewer overflows and treatment plant fines during heavy storms.

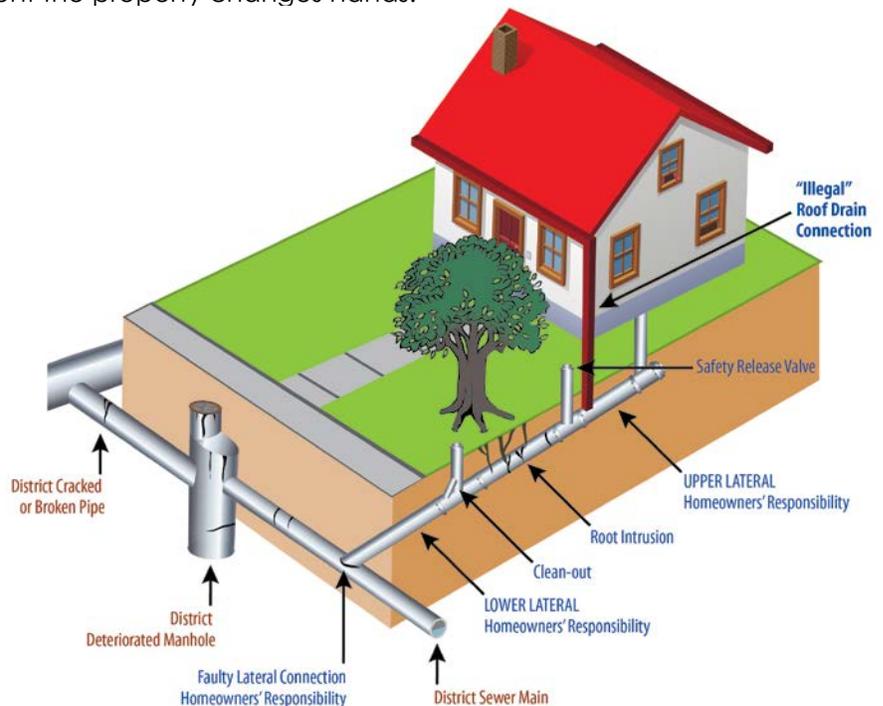
It's not a problem many of us think about, but it affects the health of the community in which we live and has environmental implications for our surrounding creeks and waterways. By participating in an effort to improve our sewer system, you will be helping to maintain the quality of life in our community.

The Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Assistance Program provides an economical way for property owners to repair or replace their laterals. LGVSD supported legislation, California Assembly Bill 741, which was passed in 2011. The bill, introduced by State Assemblyman Jared Huffman, allows agencies such as the District to advance funds to property owners for the repairs and receive repayment through special assessments collected on the property tax bills.

Through an application process, assistance is available to residential and commercial property owners within the District. The maximum amount of the assistance is \$10,000. Repayment will be over a 10 year

period at an annual interest rate of 2 percent. Payments will be collected through semi-annual property tax bills as a special assessment and will transfer to the new owner in the event the property changes hands.

For an application package and guidelines, please contact Susan McGuire, (415) 472-1734, info@lgvsd.org or visit LGVSD.org.



A sewer lateral is the connection between your home and the sewage collection system. Because of the age of many of our homes and the abundance of trees, many sewer laterals are prone to root intrusion, which greatly increases the volume of water entering the system. This can lead to sewer overflows during heavy storms. If your home does not have a sewage overflow device, you can obtain one free at the District office. Please call in advance to ensure availability.