

## Informational Opportunities and Important Dates

**May 11**

### Community Meeting

6:45-8:30 p.m.  
San Mateo Public Library  
Oak Room  
55 W 3rd Ave  
San Mateo, CA 94402

**June 6**

### Community Meeting

6:30-8:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
330 W. 20th Street  
San Mateo, CA 94403

**June 5**

Rate proposal ordinance introduced at City Council

**June 19**

City Council hearing on proposed rate increase



Replacing aging infrastructure to meet regulatory requirements.

## More Information

Please visit the Clean Water Program website  
**[www.CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org](http://www.CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org)**  
For questions, call (650) 727-6870 or  
email: [info@CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org](mailto:info@CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org)

Watch a presentation on the sewer rate proposal here:  
<http://www.cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org/sewer-rates-2017/>

## How Your Sewer Fees Are Used

**Treatment Plant  
Improvements,  
Operations &  
Maintenance**

**Collection  
System  
Improvements,  
Operations &  
Maintenance**



**Facility Leases,  
Other Expenses**

**Engineering &  
Environmental  
Compliance**

**Debt Service**

## Why is a sewer rate increase necessary?

Due to the 100% volumetric-based rate structure and the continued decline of water consumption over the years, the sewer charge revenues have been negatively impacted and the current revenue base is approximately 24% lower than projected.

## What happens if we do not raise the rates and do not do these improvements?

Not completing the capital improvements will lead to the City failing to comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease and Desist Order and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements. Not meeting these regulatory requirements and mandated deadlines could result in large fines that will be passed on to ratepayers. Our infrastructure will continue to deteriorate and will continue to have failures, such as sanitary sewer overflows onto the streets and pollutants into the Bay. These health concerns will negatively impact the community and the environment.

## Private Sewer Lateral Cost-Sharing Program

Each year, the City funds a cost-sharing program to help property owners offset the cost of replacing their private sewer lateral (the connection from their property to the City's wastewater collection system). More information is available on the City's website at [www.cityofsanmateo.org/PrivateSewerLaterals](http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/PrivateSewerLaterals).



## What Is the Clean Water Program and Why Is It Needed?

The Clean Water Program is a comprehensive plan to upgrade San Mateo's wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant to provide reliable service for years to come.

The Clean Water Program goals are:

- To replace aging pipes and facilities
- To meet current and future regulatory requirements and increase system capacity during heavy rains
- To align with the City's long-term sustainability goals



The Clean Water Program is intended to meet the following goals:

- **To replace aging pipes and facilities.** Sewer pipes have an average lifespan of 50-60 years, and most of San Mateo's sewer pipes were constructed between 1900 and 1960. The wastewater treatment plant has many components that are over 75 years old, and nearly half of the system is reaching the end of its useful life. Although it has been maintained and upgraded over the years, improvements to meet current and future operating requirements are needed.
- **To meet current and future regulatory requirements and increase system capacity during heavy rains.** The regulatory environment that protects our community continues to change. We are responding to the current direction of regulators (the Regional Water Quality Control Board) that require specific corrective actions to prevent sewer overflows during heavy rains, while meeting current and future regulations related to the quality of our treated wastewater.
- **To align with long-term sustainability goals.** Improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system will protect public health and the health of San Francisco Bay. The higher-quality water will become a source of recycled water that can be reused for landscaping and other uses. Additionally, the solid waste can be turned into an alternative fuel source for City vehicles.

The wastewater treatment plant is owned by the Cities of San Mateo and Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District. The wastewater treatment plant also serves Crystal Springs County Sanitation District, a portion of unincorporated San Mateo County, and the southern portion of the Town of Hillsborough. Those services are paid for by partner agency reimbursements.

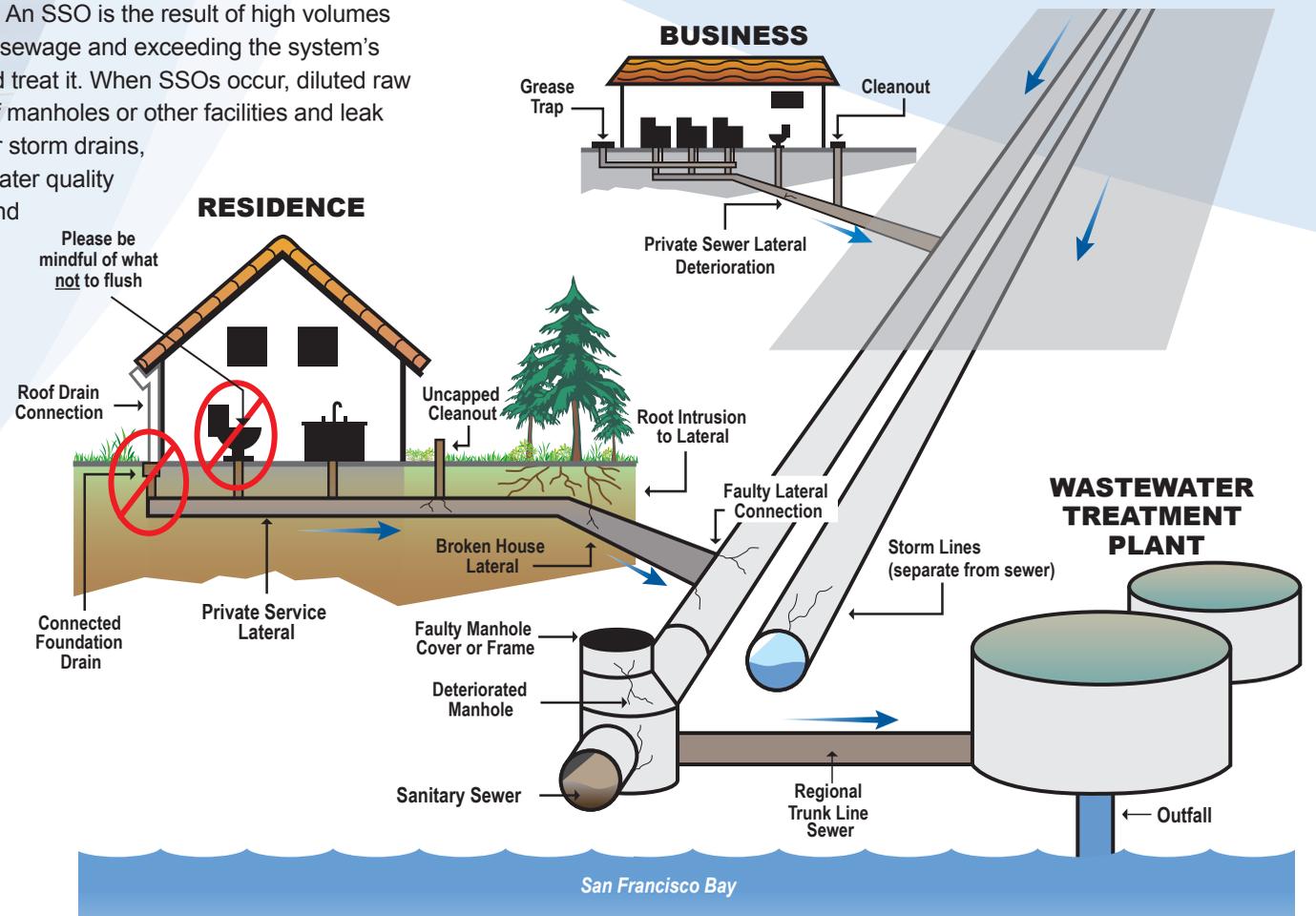


SSO: Diluted raw sewage gushing out of manhole onto San Mateo streets.

### How does the wastewater collection and treatment system work?

In San Mateo, wastewater from homes and businesses is collected via a system of pipes (sewer laterals and mains) and pump stations. The collection system includes about 234 miles of pipelines, more than 5,500 manholes, and 26 pump stations. The collection system transports the wastewater to the treatment plant. There, it undergoes a series of biological and physical treatment processes so that it is suitable for discharge into the San Francisco Bay. The plant treats an average of 12 million gallons per day during summer months; during heavy rains, the plant can receive up to 8 times greater than the average normal flows.

Because the system does not have the capacity to treat the extra wastewater during heavy rains, sometimes sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) occur. An SSO is the result of high volumes of rainwater mixing with sewage and exceeding the system's capacity to transport and treat it. When SSOs occur, diluted raw sewage overflows out of manholes or other facilities and leak onto our streets, into our storm drains, which then impact the water quality of our creeks, lagoon, and San Francisco Bay. This is a significant public and environmental health concern. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued the City with a Cease and Desist Order for SSOs.



### What happens if we do not comply with regulatory requirements?

Failure to meet our permit obligations (i.e., treating the discharged water to an acceptable quality) and Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease and Desist Order requirements (e.g., preventing sewer overflows) by mandated deadlines could result in large fines that will be passed on to ratepayers.

### How are the Clean Water Program projects funded?

The program is funded by sewer use fees paid by all properties that tie into the sewer collection system. The City is seeking grants and low-interest loans to finance the capital improvements needed, in an effort to minimize the impacts on sewer rates.