

"Pride in Community Service"

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3757 Constellation Road • Lompoc, CA 93436 • Telephone: (805) 733-2475 • Fax: (805) 733-2109

Regional Wastewater Plant Upgrades Required

VVCSD, as a contracted partner with the City of Lompoc and VAFB, has a capacity interest in the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant that is owned and operated by the City of Lompoc.

The VVCSD share of the plant capacity is 17.8% which means that in return for a share of the plant capacity, VVCSD is obligated to pay for 17.8% of improvements required by regulatory agencies. Additionally, it should be noted that the treatment costs for VVCSD are allocated to the City residents and to VAFB exactly in the same manner as to VVCSD. We all pay the same operating and treatment costs in proportion to our flows and demands on the treatment process.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in Order No. 01-87 is requiring a series of improvements to bring the Plant into compliance with new discharge limitations covering a series of discharge parameters. Most improvements are required to be completed as soon as April 2006.

The City has a pending Master Plan outlining the improvements needed and providing planning level estimates of costs and phasing of the required improve-

ments. Stage I improvements, due for completion in April 2006, are estimated to cost up to \$32.4 million, and the whole improvement package could exceed \$50 million. Although the City has yet to accept the planning and adopt its final plans for financing and executing the improvements, it appears at this point that the City will try to bond finance the whole package of improvements and collect VVCSD's share of the costs under the terms of the existing agreement, just like we have been contributing our capital share of improvements in the past. Obviously, if we share 17.8% of the costs, ratepayers in the Village can expect a significant increase in future wastewater bills.

It is still too early to forecast the precise rate impacts, or even when they will be necessary, or go into effect. One comfort we can offer to our ratepayers is that we have accumulated over \$1,000,000 in reserve funds which are specifically earmarked for capital improvements in the wastewater system. These funds will help to soften the blow of the costly improvements to VVCSD ratepayers. We will keep you advised as these matters develop further.

Providence Landing Mitigates New Water Demand

After nearly seven years of contentious debate before numerous meetings of the VVCSD Board, Providence Landing, a project proposed south of the existing Village, has finally jumped one more obstacle in its path to service from VVCSD. The Project has already received County land-use permits with water service either from VVCSD or from its own mutual water company that proposes to pump water from wells on the project site. Either way, the project would pump the same amount of water from the same aquifer and have the same impact on the Lompoc Basin groundwater.

In February 1998, VVCSD gave the Project an Intent to Serve Letter which conditioned future water service on the Developer's ability to mitigate 100% of the

Project's water demand. The Intent to Serve letter required an independent engineering report to quantify the proposed water use mitigation measures.

Over five years later, at the March 4, 2003, Board meeting, the Board accepted the independent engineering report that quantifies the Providence Landing Project's proposed mitigation measures to offset the Project's new water demand.

Todd Engineers, Inc., a pre-eminent groundwater firm, presented a report to the Board which quantified the new water demands, proposed enhanced ground water recharge of surface runoff, and net consumptive uses of pumped water, all of which would result in a shortfall of 21 acre-feet per year of complete mitigation

**VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002**

The District routinely monitors for constituents in accordance with Federal and State laws. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. **THE DISTRICT HAS MET ALL STANDARDS.**

Our water source comes from three wells which draw from the "Lompoc Uplands Aquifer." Our wells are located at 702 and 704 Highway 1 about a 1/4 mile west of the "Wye" intersection.

In accordance with the State's Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program, a Drinking Water Source Assessment for all three District Wells has been completed April 2001. In summary District sources, wells 1B, 3B, and 3A are considered most vulnerable to the following activities NOT associated with any detected contaminants: NPDES/WDR permitted discharges, Septic systems - low density, and pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum storage and transfer areas. It is important to note that no contaminants have been detected.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at:

**DHS Drinking Water Field Operations Branch
1180 Eugenia Place, Suite 200
Carpinteria, CA 93013**

or you may request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting:

**Kurt Souza
DHS District Engineer
805-566-1326**

The Board of Directors hold a regularly scheduled Board meetings on the first Tuesday at 7:00 PM of every month in the District's office conference room at 3757 Constellation Rd. The public is encouraged to attend.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

PDWS - Primary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

SDWS - Secondary Drinking Water Standards: MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

ND - Not detectable at testing limit

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

PHG - Public Health Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

AL - Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MFL - Million Fibers per Liter: a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants - such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants - such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants - which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the state Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Microbiological Quality monitoring is required of the VVCS Distribution system. Required samples are 2 per week. VVCS samples 3 per week. In 2002, we tested 159 samples; none were found to be positive. The District is in compliance with the Total Coliform Rule.

Radiological Water Quality Results of water sample analysis performed to measure radiological constituents: The District is in compliance. The level did not exceed 15 picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L). Results of the most recent tests for Gross Alpha was 1.1 - 1.3 pCi/L for the year 2002. The next radiological testing is due in 2006.

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The Department requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. Sites exceeding AL	AL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	20	ND	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; discharges from industrial manufacturers.
Copper (ppm)	20	0.980	0	1.3	0.17	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	1/16/02	56.4	72 - 69	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water
Hardness (ppm)	1/16/02	270	460 - 220	none	none	Generally found in ground and surface water

Note: Divide the hardness level by 17.1 to obtain the grains per gallon (GPG) as used by the water softener industry, which in this case is 15.7 gpg.

TABLE 3 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic ¹ (ppb)	1/16/02	5.8	2.1 - 8.1	10	na - (na)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (mfl)	09/2002	ND	System Sample	7	na - (7)	Internal corrosion of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as NO3) (ppm)	1/16/02	ND	ND	45	45 - (na)	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/16/02	0.26	0.38 - 0.28	2	1 - (na)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

¹USEPA has revised the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. On February 22, 2002 the arsenic in drinking water rule became effective; the date by which systems must comply with the new 10 ppb standard is January 23, 2006. The District is in compliance.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Note: There are no PHG's or MCLG's for constituents with Secondary drinking Water Standards because these are not health based levels, but set on basis of aesthetics.

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Level Detected	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Color (units)	<5	15	Naturally occurring organic materials.
Copper (ppm)	ND	1	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Iron (ppb)	<100	300	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	<50	50	Leaching from natural deposits
Odor (TON - Threshold Odor number)	1	3	Naturally occurring organic material
Corrosivity	9.2 corrosive	12.0 non corrosive	Natural or industrially-influenced balance of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen in the water; affected by temperature and other factors
MBAS - Foaming Agents (ppb)	ND	500	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Turbidity - Clarity (ntu)	<0.1	5	Soil Runoff
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	509	1000	Runoff/Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	872	1600	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride (ppm)	124	500	Run off/leaching from natural deposits, seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	127	500	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes

Note: Due to recent concerns regarding the contaminant MTBE (Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether), our wells were sampled in 2002 and **no MTBE** was detected. MTBE is a gasoline additive used to help reduce air pollution, however by doing so, MTBE is now polluting some of the country's underground water supply. Since MTBE is still currently being used, there are efforts to pass laws to ban this additive.

Tested for 37 **regulated Volatile Organic Compounds**, all 37 non-detectable.

Tested for 30 **unregulated Volatile Organic Compounds**, all 30 non- detectable.

(Sampled 01/16/2002, next required sampling is due 2005.) Results are available at the District Office.

If you have any questions about this report or your water quality, please contact:

Martin R. Damwyk

phone: 733-2475

mdamwyk@vvcasd.org

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Automatic Bill Pay is Available!

If you are interested, please call the District office at 733-2475 for additional information or stop by in person at 3757 Constellation Road to pick up an application.

Providence Landing . . .

of water demand. The Developer, Coastal Vision, Inc., proposed, and the Board accepted, that the remaining 21 acre feet could be mitigated by the Developer's participation in the District's Water Conservation Plan. As a result, the action of the Board was to accept the Todd Report, accept the combination of project mitigation and participation in the Conservation Plan as fully mitigating the project's net water consumption, and directed Staff to negotiate terms and conditions for a Project Development Agreement for water and wastewater service to Providence Landing.

Water Quality Improvement Study

Requests for proposals from over 10 engineering design firms were recently solicited and are due to be received about the time you get this newsletter. The purpose of the study is to determine the types of treatment technologies that could be employed to improve the water quality (principally to soften the water and eliminate the need for individual softening) and to meet all anticipated water quality regulations. The design request seeks to find out if the existing treatment facilities can be modified to meet treatment standards, or determine if a whole new treatment process would be necessary.

This design effort is the first phase of a long-term

Assuming future approval of all necessary conditions and agreements, and at current fees, if the Project were finally approved by VVCSD, the Project would contribute over \$1,000,000 of capital to VVCSD's water and wastewater funds, over \$150,000 to the water conservation fund, and install several improvements to the water system for existing customers. Also, by adding additional customers to the rate-paying base of the District, fixed costs of the District, which amount to 70-80% of the annual costs, will be spread among more ratepayers and thereby proportionately reduced for existing ratepayers.

project development effort that is being funded from reserve funds already accumulated for system replacements and capital improvements. Therefore its anticipated \$30,000 cost does not and will not affect rates during the planning stage. The District has applied for grant/loan funding from the State's 2002 Proposition 50 Bond Law passed by voters last year to cover a possible \$1.9 million design and construction cost of the improved treatment process. It will be a long while in the future before we know if such funding will be granted. But in the meantime, much design effort and decision making by the Board must be done over a series of future years.

Personnel Change and Salary Adjustments May Impact Rates

At the March 4th Board meeting, the Board accepted and plans to implement on July 1st, a consultant's report on Classification and Salary Comparisons for District employees, and also approved moving forward on recruitment of a new, full-time General Manager. Together, these two actions will result in an approximate \$95,000 increase in salaries and benefits over this year's budget. About \$60,000 of the increase is attributable to the change from the present part-time, contracted GM to a full-time GM employee. Recruitment of the new GM began on March 5th with an anticipated hiring date of July 1, 2003.

Seven years ago when the current part-time GM was contracted, there was an average 14.1% reduction in rates, largely, but not entirely, due to the part-time

contract. Since then, an additional water and an additional wastewater rate reductions have been implemented during two years, and rates have held steady during the other years.

During the same period, salaries and benefits have risen every year, a 41% increase in electrical rates has taken place, interest earnings have declined, and many costs, including workers compensation insurance, and other costs, such as postage, have risen sharply. After seven years of these declining or steady rates, and the anticipated increase in personnel costs next year, it is apparent that rates are likely to finally increase at VVCSD. The Board will be considering the next year's budget in May and consider any rate adjustments at its June meeting.

VVCSD HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Office will be closed the following dates :

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday • May 6, 2003

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Friday • July 4, 2003

LABOR DAY

Monday • September 1, 2003

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 27 & 28, 2003

OBSERVE

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS

December 24, 2003 • Close at 1:00 p.m.

Closed December 25, 2003

OBSERVE

NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY

December 31, 2003 • Close at 1:00 p.m.

Closed January 1, 2004

For personal assistance, the District office, located at 3757 Constellation Road, is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.



VVCSD MISSION STATEMENT

"To efficiently provide dependable drinking water delivery and wastewater collection services to Vandenberg Village residents, with a commitment to customer service."

The VVCSD Web Page can be found at:

www.vvcsd.org

E-mail may be sent to: info@vvcsd.org

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