

# THE LATERAL

CONNECTING US WITH YOU



Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Open House on October 2! Community members, employees and the Board of Directors enjoyed the opportunity to interact, as well as meet the new WCWD executive leadership team.

## WELCOME

Welcome to the West County Wastewater District newsletter! As part of WCWD's commitment to its customers, we are excited to share news about what is happening with wastewater in your community.



**Keeping the Community Safe through Wastewater Treatment**



**Capital Improvement Projects**



**New Executive Leadership Team**

What is a lateral? A lateral pipe connects your property to the public sewer. Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of laterals. When buying or selling a house, you need a certificate of sewer lateral compliance from WCWD. Find more information online at [www.wcwd.org](http://www.wcwd.org).

## A Mission Rooted in Stewardship: Keeping the Community Safe through Wastewater Treatment

Imagine what would happen if water flushed down the toilet or sent down the drain went straight to the San Francisco Bay without going through a collection and treatment process. Beaches would be unusable, animals would be sick, and human health would be greatly impacted.

West County Wastewater District (WCWD) takes its role protecting public health and the environment seriously. WCWD's team of plant operators, lab scientists, infrastructure planners, maintenance teams, project managers, administrators and field staff work around the clock to keep the local community safe by properly collecting, treating and disposing of wastewater.

*"We are a high-functioning team that cares deeply about and works together to keep our community healthy by making all the pieces of wastewater operations run smoothly,"* said WCWD General Manager Lisa Malek-Zadeh.

The WCWD lab tests nearly 600 samples a year to ensure that water is treated to safe levels before it is discharged from the Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant. Monitoring of treatment chemical levels and adjustments made by plant operators ensures the system continues to effectively treat wastewater.

The majority of the water treated at WCWD is made available for local organizations like the Chevron Richmond Refinery and EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility District) to be reused for industrial purposes such as heating and cooling buildings. Productive use of treated water saves valuable drinking water, protecting and preserving the local water supply.

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# A Mission Rooted in Stewardship: Keeping the Community Safe through Wastewater Treatment *(Continued)*



WCWD's commitment to the environment extends beyond water reuse. The agency strives to operate with environmental stewardship guiding its actions - both in day-to-day activities and long-term goals. The WCWD Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant has solar power panels that supply one-third of WCWD's energy needs.

*"One hundred percent of the work we do is service oriented, and those services are vital to our community, the environment and our customers"* said Malek-Zadeh.

An on-call service crew is available 24 hours a day to respond to emergencies. WCWD also provides sewer resources for both home and business owners, such as permitting, sale of property and installation information, and overflow prevention tips. WCWD also maintains the buildings and systems that collect and treat the water.

Building relationships and engaging with the community is one of the agency's top priorities. WCWD operates a successful educational outreach program that offers wastewater plant tours and classroom visits to educate students about wastewater and environmental responsibility. WCWD also participates in career development partnerships and programs that encourage local students to enter a career in the wastewater industry.

*"Our actions are rooted in community stewardship,"* said Malek-Zadeh. *"Everything we do comes back to you – our customers and the neighborhoods that surround us."*

## Capital Improvement Projects Keep Operations Running Smoothly

To ensure reliable and high-quality service to customers, the WCWD team assesses, maintains, improves and constructs the buildings, systems and sewer lines that collect, treat and distribute wastewater. This includes maintenance and improvements at the WCWD Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant, as well as sewer systems out in the local community.



### Headworks Valve Replacement Project: \$818,000

The headworks of the WCWD Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant conducts the first step of the treatment process, where the largest solids, like big branches and plastics, are removed. To keep the headworks reliable and working efficiently, WCWD will improve nine large valves, piping, and one slide gate.

### Sonoma Street Sewer Installation Project: \$1.3 million

The Sonoma Street Sewer Installation Project includes replacing smaller sewer lines with 1,570 feet of 18-inch diameter sewer. This will increase the size and capacity of a segment of the collection system that has experienced overflow in the past.



### Pipe Bursting and Spot Repairing of Sanitary Sewers Project: \$1.1 million

WCWD's Pipe Bursting and Spot Repairing of Sanitary Sewers Project is nearing completion. Work on this project began in July 2018. This critical infrastructure project included performing pipe bursting of 655 feet of sewers at two sites, as well as performing spot repairs at seven sites. Pipe bursting, also called trenchless construction, is less disruptive to the community than open trench pipe replacement. Spot repairs are a cost-effective technique to increase the service life of a sewer. Spot repair is used when a short segment of a sewer is damaged, and the rest of the sewer is still in good condition.



## Meeting the Future with a Cutting-edge Approach

WCWD announces new leadership team that embodies goals of service, innovation and progressiveness

In a transformative move designed to support its long-term objectives, WCWD hired four new executive team members in September who will help WCWD achieve its mission and vision while prioritizing its core values.



The new employees were hired after an extensive nationwide search. Each of the managers chosen possesses skills that will enhance WCWD's level of customer service, build community trust and connections and emphasize accountability and transparency.

***"As an organization, we are moving toward a culture of innovation, collaboration, trust and leadership," said WCWD General Manager Lisa Malek-Zadeh. "To support that shift, we are redefining our recruitment process and looking at candidates from a fresh perspective. We are hiring people whose experience, education and viewpoints will successfully support the WCWD as we move forward into the future."***

One of WCWD's goals is to recruit employees who embrace its values and have a passion for the environment. As part of the new hiring process, WCWD removed the often-limiting traditional education requirement from its job descriptions and is encouraging candidates with experience outside the wastewater industry to apply.

***"We are not interested in simply filling positions with qualified people; what we are really looking for are thought leaders who have the vision and innovation to support our culture and core values and to ensure WCWD achieves the objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan," said Malek-Zadeh.***

### WCWD EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### **Lisa Malek-Zadeh, General Manager**

Lisa brings innovation, passion and business expertise to her position of General Manager at WCWD. Her fresh perspective is transforming the District, bringing an increased focus on community stewardship, public engagement, customer service, effective problem-solving, organizational culture and modernization. Lisa manages a professional, transparent and accountable team of employees in planning for future wastewater needs of the community, collaborating with local, regional and national partners, and building trust among the public and stakeholders. Lisa came to WCWD in April 2016 as Business Services Manager after 17 years of public employee service and experience. Lisa was promoted to Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer in January 2018 and later became the Interim General Manager. She was named General Manager in January 2019.

#### **Andrew Clough, Deputy General Manager**

With more than 30 years of management and operations experience, Andrew has served as the Public Works Director for the City of Emeryville and the City of Berkeley. He is experienced in agency management and leadership and project delivery, offering a strong customer service ethic, sound fiscal management and inclusive communications strategies. As a professional geologist and environmental scientist, Andrew brings a unique blend of technical, environmental, organizational development and management experience to WCWD.

#### **Justin Lovell, Administrative Services Department Manager**

Justin brings more than 15 years of management experience to WCWD, with a strong emphasis on budget and finance, project management, sustainability initiatives and process improvements. Most recently, Justin served as Financial Services Manager for the City of South San Francisco where he oversaw and directed citywide financial management. Justin has extensive experience working with staff, elected officials, and intergovernmental agencies to advance strategic priorities.

#### **Michael Savannah, Infrastructure & Planning (I & P) Department Manager**

Michael's resume includes experience in both the private sector and on local, state and international projects for a wide variety of government clients. Michael joined WCWD five years ago, starting in the Engineering Department as a senior engineering technician. Michael has since served as Senior Project Manager, Capital Programs Manager, and Interim I & P Department Manager. Michael is a strategic thinker with the ability to develop partnerships and relationships that drive results across the District and with stakeholders, while keeping service at the forefront of the District's day-to-day work.

#### **Aaron Winer, Water Quality and Resource Recovery Department Manager**

Aaron's lengthy career includes a wide variety of project management, plant operations management, and environmental compliance. He has spent the last eight years managing wastewater operations and all related activities for the City of Richmond while working for Veolia Water under contract to the City. Aaron has played integral roles in helping organizations evolve, including enhancing customer and internal relations, improving communications, and building community involvement and trust.



2910 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, CA 94806

## BOARD MEMBERS

Harry Wiener, *President*  
Sherry A. Stanley, *Vice President*  
David Alvarado, *Director*  
Cheryl Sudduth, *Director*  
Cesar Zepeda, *Director*

## GENERAL MANAGER

Lisa Malek-Zadeh

## CONTACT US



**Hours:** Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – noon & 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



**Phone:** (510) 222-6700



**After Hours Emergency Line:** (510) 222-6799



[www.facebook.com/WestCountyWD](https://www.facebook.com/WestCountyWD)



[www.linkedin.com/company/  
west-county-wastewater-district](https://www.linkedin.com/company/west-county-wastewater-district)

# ABOUT WCWD



**WCWD provides wastewater services to approximately 100,000 residents in a 16.9 square mile service area.**

**MISSION:** To protect the public health through the safe, responsible collection and treatment of wastewater to recover for reuse while promoting environmental stewardship for the West County Community.

**VISION:** To be an integrated partner to make our planet better for future generations.

### VALUES:



Service



Leadership



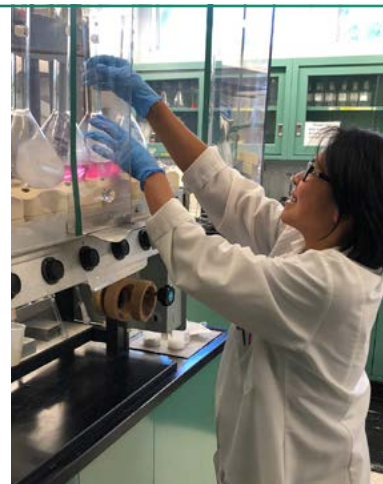
Accountability



Trust



Collaboration



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## WCWD BEGINS TRANSITION FROM AT-LARGE BOARD ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS

The WCWD Board of Directors is moving from at-large elections to district, or zone, based elections. Many jurisdictions in California are making this change to meet California Voting Rights Act requirements. The WCWD Board is comprised of five members who each serve a 4-year term.

Election districts are required to have equal population. A Public hearing to obtain community input will be part of the district mapping process.



**WCWD will hold its first district-based elections in November 2020. In compliance with the law, current Board members will serve their full terms if not up for re-election in 2020.**


To assist with the transition, WCWD is working with Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc., a leading demographics firm based in California. The firm will review legal requirements, conduct a demographic analysis and prepare voting district maps.

*See below for details on how the community can participate. For more information, visit [www.wcwd.org](http://www.wcwd.org) or call WCWD at 510-222-6700.*

## ELECTION TRANSITION SCHEDULE

All public meetings will take place on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** at the West County Wastewater District Administrative Offices, 2910 Hilltop Drive, Richmond, CA.

November 6, 2019	Public Hearing held on composition of voting districts
November 20, 2019	Public Hearing held on composition of voting districts
November 27, 2019	Published draft maps of the five (5) proposed districts at <a href="http://www.wcwd.org/district-elections">www.wcwd.org/district-elections</a>
December 11, 2019	Public Hearing held on draft maps of proposed districts
December 18, 2019	Public Hearing held on draft maps of proposed districts
January 15, 2020	Public Hearing and Board vote on adoption of district maps
November 2020	First district-based elections

 **Questions? Call 510-222-6700 or visit [www.wcwd.org](http://www.wcwd.org).**



### SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY!

Every decade, the U.S. Census Bureau counts America's population. Your participation in the 2020 Census matters! The data collected supports decisions like government community funding, election boundaries, and residential planning such as roads, schools and emergency services. Learn more at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).



# WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER DISTRICT SERVICE AREA