

Living Levee & Collaborative Shoreline Plan



In 2020, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority ([SFBRA](#)) awarded a grant to WCW to determine feasibility and alignment options for a "living levee" along the North Richmond shoreline.

This project includes multiple benefits such as habitat enhancements, trail connectivity, and coastal flooding protection. It builds on the work of previous shoreline planning efforts focused on preservation and resilience, including the North Richmond Shoreline Community Vision (2017, [San Francisco Estuary Partnership](#)) and the Resilient by Design Challenge (2018, [Mithun](#), Inc. and [The Watershed Project](#)) to:

- Undertake technical studies and data collection
- Develop conceptual designs and associated cost estimates
- Engage the public, key stakeholders, and the regulatory community in the initial phase to understand how to respond to critical flooding projects in North Richmond

In December 2023, Mithun, Inc. completed the preliminary planning and design work. The project includes two parts conducted in parallel:

- **Phase 1 Living Levee Project** – Prepared initial designs for the living levee at WCW’s Water Quality & Resource Recovery Plant marsh frontage.
- **Phase 1A & 1B Collaborative Shoreline Plan**– Developed a community-centered planning process for the shoreline to engage and inspire residents and stakeholders. The multi-year effort will be required to adapt a 5-mile length of shoreline for sea level rise (approximately bounded by Castro Cove to the south and Point Pinole to the north).

In May 2024, the SFBRA awarded a grant to WCW to continue the planning and design efforts for the North Richmond Living Levee & Collaborative Shoreline Plan Project.

This next phase of work will focus on completing 65% design of the Phase 1 Living Levee project, environmental studies, continuing community engagement, conceptual design of the Phase 1A and 1B projects, continuing agency coordination, grant funding pursuits, and the design and construction of sediment storage.

Read more about the North Richmond Shoreline Living Levee Project by visiting our website [HERE](#).

CLEAN & GREEN

PROJECT UPDATE



A Win for Our Community and the Environment!

Did you know that wastewater treatment plants contribute to 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions? But there’s great news! WCW’s Clean & Green Project is set to revolutionize our wastewater treatment operations, **slashing our greenhouse gas emissions by a staggering 93%**. And that’s just the beginning.

This groundbreaking project will also provide our community with significant environmental benefits by **saving 4.2 million kilowatt-hours of energy annually**. Reducing energy use leads to cleaner air and a healthier communities by significantly lowering pollutants, resulting in fewer respiratory issues.

The Clean & Green Project will achieve 100% onsite power generation through a combination of biogas and new solar arrays, ensuring our facility is energy independent. Our state-of-the-art microgrid will store solar energy to guarantee our wastewater operations run continuously - 24/7, 365 days a year. This **ensures the health and safety of our community by maintaining essential services**, even during power outages.

Whether you’re a local resident, business owner, or environmental enthusiast, we encourage you to [visit our website](#) to learn more about this transformative project.



WCW

IN THE COMMUNITY



Interacting with our community is a top priority for WCW - and it's how we educate residents about our work and share ways they can help keep the underground sewer lines healthy and in good working order. We love staying connected to our community and look forward to event season every year!

Our season kicks off in April with Earth Month and WCW's Community Clean Up Day. WCW team members attend career fairs, Juneteenth

Celebrations, music festivals, and much more. We remind our customers not to flush wipes down the toilet, educate folks about the "3Ps" (only pee, poo, and toilet paper get flushed down the toilet!), and talk about our exciting projects and upgrades that are helping WCW become cleaner and greener.

In 2024, WCW participated in:

- WCW's 2nd Annual Community Clean Up
- Hilltop Community Church Career Fair
- Richmond's Juneteenth Festival
- North Richmond's Music Festival

- Carlos's Auto Wrecking Car Show benefitting Oakland Children's Hospital and Autism Awareness
- National Night Out
- El Sobrante Stroll
- St. Paul's School Fall Festival

See the photos of where we've been!

Interested in participating in this year's WCW Community Clean Up? Contact communications@wcwd.org.



WOMEN

— IN WASTEWATER —

Established over a century ago, WCW is proud of the diversity represented in our workforce. Over 30% of WCW positions are held by women, many of them in leadership roles and positions historically held by men. We're incredibly proud of the women of WCW and hope their stories inspire you the way they inspire us.

In our continued series, *Women in Wastewater*, we're highlighting the work of two team members - Environmental Compliance Inspector Claudia Anderson and Valerie Sakata, Plant Operator.

Through the benefits provided by WCW, Claudia took the initiative to go back to school while working as an Administrative Assistant in WCW's offices. After earning her AA in Water and Wastewater Technology, Claudia was hired into the Compliance Inspector role she holds today. [Read Claudia's inspiring story.](#)

Valerie Sakata was hired as a Plant Operator at WCW in the Spring of 2021, a role once held only by men.

Over the years, Valerie has become one of three women operators and two operators-in-training. Leadership encourages all employees to reach their goals by providing support, training opportunities, and out-of-class assignments.

[Read Valerie's empowering story.](#)



Have you considered working in the wastewater industry? This fulfilling line of work takes a team, which includes engineers, analysts, scientists, communication and marketing professionals, and more. WCW is currently seeking an intern for spring 2025 to work within the office of the General Manager and the Communications Program Manager. [Get more information and apply today!](#)



ABOUT YOUR

WASTEWATER DISTRICT



Embracing the future by planning today...

West County Wastewater, founded in 1921, protects public health and the environment by safely and responsibly collecting and treating wastewater keeping our community safe, while helping to make our planet better for future generations.

Check and see if you work or live in the WCW Service District, Just click [THIS LINK](#) and enter your address.

WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER

BOARD MEMBERS

Arto Rinteela
President

Annie M. King-Meredith
Director

Harry Wiener
Director

Cheryl Sudduth
Vice President

David Alvarado
Director

Andrew Clough
General Manager



Contact Us!

(510) 222-6700
After hours, press "1"

Business Hours:
M-F 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., 1p.m. - 5 p.m.

Sign up for The Lateral newsletter



West County Wastewater | 2910 Hilltop Drive | Richmond, CA 94806 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!