

## SPMUD Celebrates 60 Years of Service Award of Transparency Certificate of Excellence

The District has received a Transparency Certificate of Excellence Award from the Special District Leadership Foundation for outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. Formed 60 years ago under the Municipal Utility District Act of the State of California (MUD Act) SPMUD was created as a customer-owned, regional sanitary sewer system for the local communities.

Over the years, the District has grown from 7 to 31 square miles as the City of Rocklin and Town of Loomis expanded their boundaries and by annexing several unincorporated areas (Penryn & Newcastle to the north, and Rogersdale in the Granite Bay area).

The District joins an exclusive group of California's Special Districts to be granted this prestigious Award of Transparency. Demonstrating completion of eight essential governance requirements including ethics training for all board members; conducting open and public meetings; filing financial transactions and compensation reports with the State of California; and fulfilling numerous website requirements to provide public access to District information.

*The Special District Leadership Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.*



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## Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER 3 - APRIL 2017

### PARTICIPATION FEE'S FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS TO BE WAIVED

Approval of Ordinance 17-01 directed changes to the Sewer Use Ordinance to accommodate state law recently enacted affecting the affordability of accessory dwelling units (granny-flats or in-law quarters). Under SB 1069 these units will no longer be assessed a Participation Fee for connecting to the District's sewer collection systems.

The Districts participation fee contains two components: a Local Fee currently \$3750/EDU intended to cover the costs of installation of new backbone infrastructure and capital facilities required to meet the demands of future development within the District's Service Area Boundaries; and a Regional Fee currently \$7457/EDU with a purpose to finance the construction and expansion of the South Placer Wastewater Authority (SPWA) Regional Wastewater Treatment Plants.

*"The potential to save over \$11,000 in developer fees goes a long way to make the construction of this type of housing affordable," remarked SPMUD President Vic Markey, "and it is a great way to meet attainable housing goals for the region."*



STOP  
&  
THINK



### CALPERS UPDATE

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) provides retirement benefits to District employees along with public employees within the State of California. The District's CalPERS obligations are calculated in accordance with a discount rate used to determine not only current payouts but also future pension plan payouts. The downturn in the economy resulted in huge losses and underfunded liability within the CalPERS portfolio.

CalPERS has released plans that will reduce the discount rate for local agencies from 7.5% to 7.37% in FY18/19, 7.25% in FY19/20 and 7.0% in FY20/21. This long term plan impacts the District with higher pension fund liabilities and payments.

The District Board has followed the policy to fully fund its obligations to CalPERS.

### FOG PICK-UP PROGRAM

Pour all cooking oil and grease into a non-breakable container with a lid, such as a coffee can, label it as SPMUD/FOG and place it on your front door step.

Then **CALL SPMUD** (916) 786-8212 for pick up! See the District website for more information, [www.spmud.ca.gov](http://www.spmud.ca.gov)

## Recent Kudo's received....

"We cannot thank you enough, the crew at SPMUD have been a pleasure to work with...."

"...SPMUD's front office was the most professional, helpful and genuinely friendly staff we have encountered"

"Your staff are patient with their customers and made my day a little brighter by doing a great job...."

## PREPARATION FOR 5-YR FINANCIAL PLAN

The District is beginning its 5-Year Financial Planning cycle. The top priority of wastewater systems is to provide a level of service that meets state and federal regulatory requirements, and the demands and expectations of its customers.

The long-term goal of the 5-year Financial Plan is to develop a utility system that is stable, requiring limited increases in the cost of services, minimizing those increases that are required, and providing sufficient revenues to cover necessary operations and maintenance programs, capital investment and reserves to meet the utility's stated needs.

Because the District's customers bear the ultimate cost of service, there exists a need to have a financial plan that will permit the utility to meet its priorities at an affordable and stable cost for the long-term. To this end, the District operates under the Municipal Utility District Act and is set up as an enterprise fund to operate very much like a business. Sewer customers are not subsidized by the General Fund taxpayers of any local government and must be individually self-sustaining.

As an enterprise, the utility must derive its own revenues, and use those revenues to fund operation and maintenance activities and establish reserves to meet customer and regulatory demands as well as the need for capital funding to pay for new infrastructure, system expansions, renewal and replacement of existing facilities, in addition to meeting increasingly stringent environmental regulations and compliance requirements.

## SPMUD takes over Maintenance of Lower Laterals

On March 5, 2017, the District's Ordinance 17-01 went into effect transferring ownership and responsibility of all lower laterals to the District. What does this mean for you?

- A property owner will still own and be responsible for maintenance and repair of the sewer lateral on their property, typically referred to as the Upper Lateral.
- The District will take over at the property line where the sewer service enters the public right of way.

The SPMUD Board noted the hardship that ownership and responsibility of the lower lateral has on local property owners and directed staff to craft changes to the Sewer Use Ordinance that would result in the District assuming ownership and maintenance responsibility of the lower laterals.

As a further consequence of this change, any spills emanating from the lower lateral will be reported to the State Water Resources Control Board and will be closely scrutinized.

As environmental stewards for the community, it is essential that the District does all it can to control and prevent these hazardous discharges that can ultimately affect local waterways. The cost of this maintenance and repair will be covered in monthly sewer service charges.



**TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™**

### SEWER PROBLEMS?

If you are experiencing a sewer problem, such as plumbing backing up, slow drains, sewer overflowing either inside your home or from the sewer clean out

**PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY**



**916-786-8555**

SPMUD crews will determine whether the problem is the District's to resolve or whether you should call a plumber. SPMUD has staff on-call 24/7 to address these sewer related issues.

**CALL US FIRST! (916)786-8555 • AFTER HOURS-LISTEN TO PROMPTS**