



# Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District

Protecting Public Health, the Environment, and the Bay

[View videos, photos, animations, and interesting facts about the upgraded plant.](#)

## MAJOR TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE COMPLETE Will Protect Our Community and the Bay Environment

### Upgrades Will Provide Benefits for Decades to Come

**Exceptional Treatment Quality.** Better than all requirements.

**Less Odor.** More odors are captured in the central odor control system.

**Modern Earthquake Resistance.** Built with 280 truckloads of concrete, 465,458 pounds of rebar, 10-foot-deep footers, and 30-inch-thick walls in places, the plant is built to last.

**Better Treatment During Storms.** The upgraded plant accommodates increased storm flows, improving the quality of water released into the Bay.

**Full Operability During Maintenance.** All treatment processes now have redundancy, greatly improving reliability and allowing operators to better maintain equipment without impacting water quality.

**Better Reliability and Quality.** The old treatment plant lacked standard, necessary features. The new Headworks will screen out rags, wipes, and trash that gets into the sewer, preventing damage to the plant.

**Built with the Future in Mind.** New equipment and expanded capacity will help us meet stricter quality requirements for decades to come.

**Improved Safety Measures.** Safety improvements throughout the plant will protect workers, the community, and the Bay.

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*Tertiary treatment filters  
particles as small as 5 microns.*

*A human hair is about 50 microns  
in diameter.*

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## When It Comes to Tracking COVID-19, SMCSD Is Flush with Data

The District is providing wastewater samples for a UC Berkeley study to test for the novel coronavirus in wastewater. In addition to airborne droplets, COVID-19 can be shed through the digestive tract and into sewers. Researchers hope that by monitoring for COVID-19 in wastewater they can help identify outbreaks in their very early stages. While COVID-19 can enter the sewers, the treatment plant kills it along with other pathogens. According to the CDC, there is no information to date that anyone has become sick with COVID-19 because of direct exposure to treated or untreated wastewater. Also, the study cannot identify individual homes or businesses that might be the source of detected virus particles.

[Learn More about the COVID-19 Study.](#)



*District Lab Technician Randy Hart preparing samples for the UC Berkeley COVID-19 study.*

## Backup Power Generators So Sewer System Works When PG&E Is Shut Down

The District maintains emergency backup power at six critical pumping stations and at the main treatment plant to ensure uninterrupted sewer service even during widespread power outages. With PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events becoming more common as a fire prevention mechanism, the District anticipates using those emergency generators more often. In response, the District will invest \$3 million in upgrading and maintaining its generator system.

[Find out how we provide power for our facilities even when PG&E does not.](#)

## New Pump Station with More Capacity and Reliability



*Rendering indicating how the site will appear once the landscaping matures. The large wet weather pumps located across Coloma will not be necessary when the new station is complete.*

The project includes demolition of two existing underground pump stations that will be replaced with a new pump station at Coloma St. and Bridgeway. It will be mostly underground or hidden by new landscaping. The new pump station will have increased capacity and backup systems to meet needs during storms when flow can increase fivefold.

Construction is expected to take about one year.

The planting plan for the pump site was developed with input from Sausalito Beautiful, Shades of Green (a local landscape architect) and the Whiskey Springs HOA Landscaping Committee. A key goal was accomplished with protection of the mature Blue Atlas Cedar trees. [See additional information and landscape renderings on the pump station project.](#)

## Joint Study to Consolidate City of Sausalito Sewer Operations with the District

Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District (SMCSD) currently operates and maintains the City of Sausalito's four sewer pump stations on a contract basis. The City has been evaluating the possibility of expanding maintenance and operations services by the District or fully consolidating sewer operations with the District. The goals of this effort include continued collaboration and improved efficiency. The City and District completed an initial joint study. Phase II of the study, which includes an operational plan is pending. We will keep you informed as we learn more. [Read more information about the consolidation studies.](#)