

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The mission of the Environmental Services Department is to deliver world-class utility services and programs to improve our health, environment, and economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

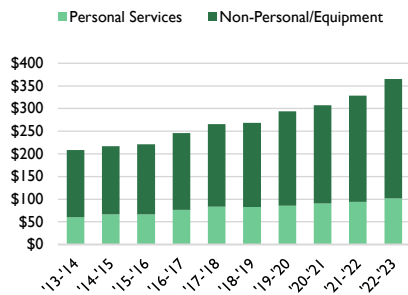
The Environmental Services Department (ESD) provides recycling and garbage services, wastewater treatment, potable water delivery, stormwater management, and recycled water management. ESD also manages programs to conserve water and energy resources and achieve other environmental goals.

ESD coordinates Citywide efforts to protect and conserve air, land, water, and energy resources through policy development, education, and grant-seeking. This work is guided by the City’s Climate Smart San José Plan and regulatory requirements.

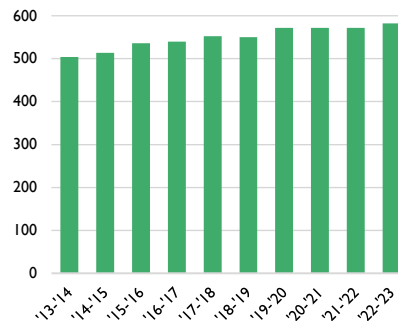
Most ESD revenue comes from various customer fees and charges; approximately \$6 million of its budget, representing 2 percent of its operating expenditures, came from the General Fund in 2022-23.

In 2022-23, ESD’s operating expenditures totaled \$365 million, including personal and non-personal expenditures. In addition, the Department was responsible for \$1.8 million in Citywide expenditures. Staffing in 2022-23 included 582 full-time equivalent positions, representing a 16 percent increase from ten years ago.

ESD Operating Expenditures (\$millions)



ESD Authorized Positions



Climate Smart San José

On February 27, 2018, the San José City Council adopted the [Climate Smart San José Plan](#). The plan is a continuation of the 2007 San José Green Vision, and represents San José’s commitment to meeting the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Climate Smart San José lays out specific goals and milestones, focusing on reducing communitywide GHG emissions in alignment with the 2016 Paris Agreement.

In November 2021, the San José City Council voted unanimously to adopt the goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, joining several cities across the nation. In June 2022, City Council approved the Pathway to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 to focus the City’s efforts on key strategies to achieve this goal.

In May 2023, City Council approved the establishment of a Climate Advisory Commission. This involved merging with the City’s existing Clean Energy Community Advisory Commission. The new commission is expected to commence meetings in early 2024.

Find more information on the City’s [Climate Smart Dashboard](#).

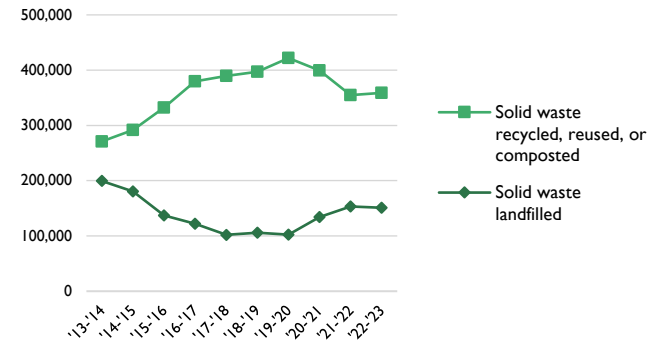
RECYCLING & GARBAGE SERVICES

ESD provides recycling and garbage services to over 335,000 residential households in San José through contracted service providers. ESD also provides waste management programs and services for San José businesses, large events, public areas, and City facilities. The Department manages agreements for commercial collection and recyclables processing, organics processing, and residential and construction waste collection services in the city. For 2022-23, City Council approved rate increases of up to 8 percent for recycling and garbage services.

The state monitors each jurisdiction’s “per capita disposal rate” and requires that 50 percent of solid waste be diverted* from landfills. Since 2007, San José has diverted at least 60 percent of waste from landfills. In 2022-23, San José diverted 64 percent of residential waste landfilled.

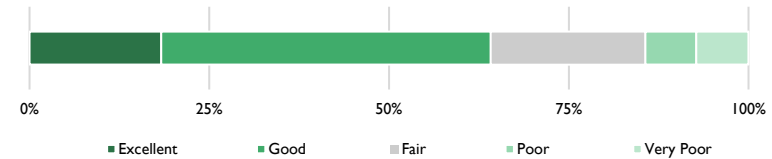
* “Diversion” refers to any combination of waste prevention, recycling, reuse, and composting activities that reduces waste disposed at landfills. (Source: CA Integrated Waste Management Board)

Tons of Residential Solid Waste Recycled vs. Landfilled

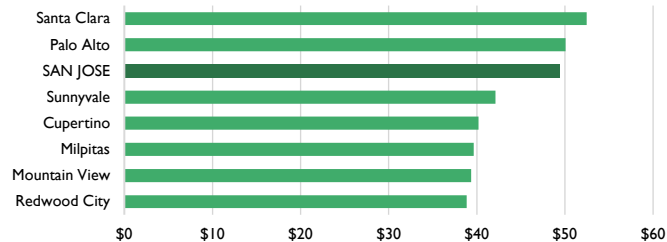


Note: Methodology changed in 2021 based on terms of new agreements with the City's contractors.

Community Survey 2023
Residents' ratings of trash, recycling, and yard waste services

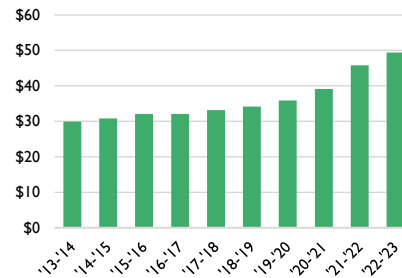


Comparison of Monthly Residential Garbage and Recycling Rates (2022-23)



Sources: Rates listed on local government websites for municipalities provided.
Note: Rates listed for all municipalities are for the 32-gallon cart size, except for Milpitas, which uses the 26-gallon bin.

San José Garbage and Recycling Monthly Bills (32-gallon cart)



What Can Be Recycled

Materials such as plastics, paper, metal, and glass can be placed in the recycling bin.

Recycling is collected weekly from residential homes, mobile home parks, and apartments and condos. You can find out more about what specific materials can be placed in the recycling bin at:

www.sanjoserecycles.org/what-to-do/curbside/

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

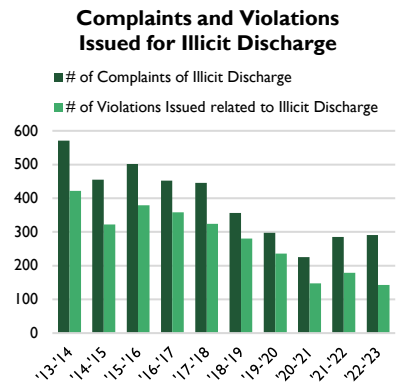
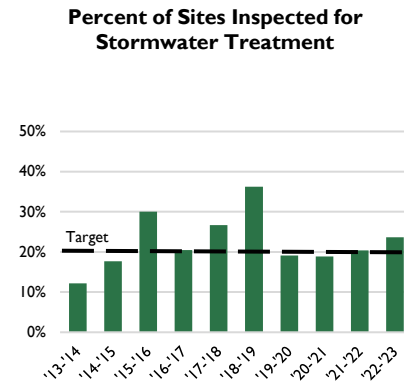
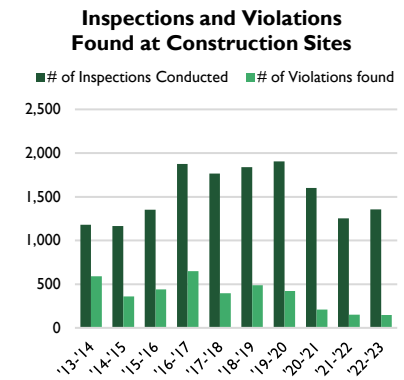
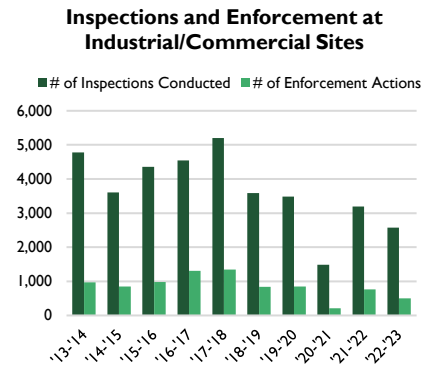
The City's Municipal Regional Stormwater permit requires the City to implement inspection and enforcement programs to protect water quality that will ultimately help improve the health of our waterways and the San Francisco Bay. ESD has four stormwater inspection programs that inspect San José businesses, active construction sites, stormwater treatment measures, and incidents of illicit discharge to the storm sewer system. Additionally, ESD performs outreach and education to promote regulatory compliance. The Department of Transportation (DOT) operates and maintains the City's storm drains and storm sewer system, addressing the removal of any debris prior to entering creeks and eventually the South San Francisco Bay (see Transportation chapter).

ESD's programs protect water quality and the health of the South Bay watershed and the San Francisco Bay. ESD estimates that the City has reduced the amount of trash discharged from the stormwater collection system into receiving waters by 100 percent since 2009 and reduced citywide trash load by about 96 percent in 2022-23.**

The annual storm sewer fee for a single-family residence in 2022-23 was \$94.44. The annual fee has remained the same since 2011-12.

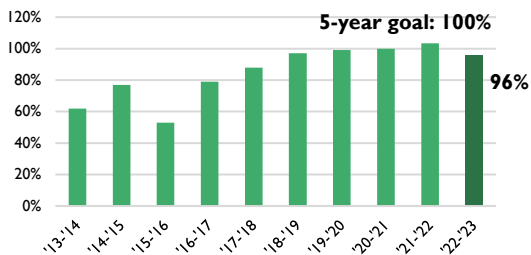
* These programs and activities are regulated by a state permit for municipal storm water systems. For more information, see the [California Water Boards' webpage](#) on the subject.

** Calculation is based on a method specified in the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES permit; the regional permit was reissued in 2022-23.



Note: Includes all public and private stormwater treatment measures (e.g. bioretention systems) that treat stormwater as part of the City's low impact development (LID) requirement for new and redevelopment projects.

Citywide Trash Load Reduction



Note: The trash load reduction calculation measures compliance with the City's Municipal Regional Permit requirement. In 2022-23 the methodology for this measure was changed based on an updated permit. The new reduction target is based on reducing trash from receiving waters before 2009 levels. The reduction target is 90 percent by June 2023 and 100 percent by June 2025.

Baykeeper Consent Decree

In June 2016, the City executed a consent decree to settle a lawsuit filed by the San Francisco Baykeeper. The consent decree stipulates that the City appropriate \$100 million over a ten-year period to implement projects intended to reduce the flow of pollutants from the City's urban areas to receiving waters (e.g., green infrastructure).

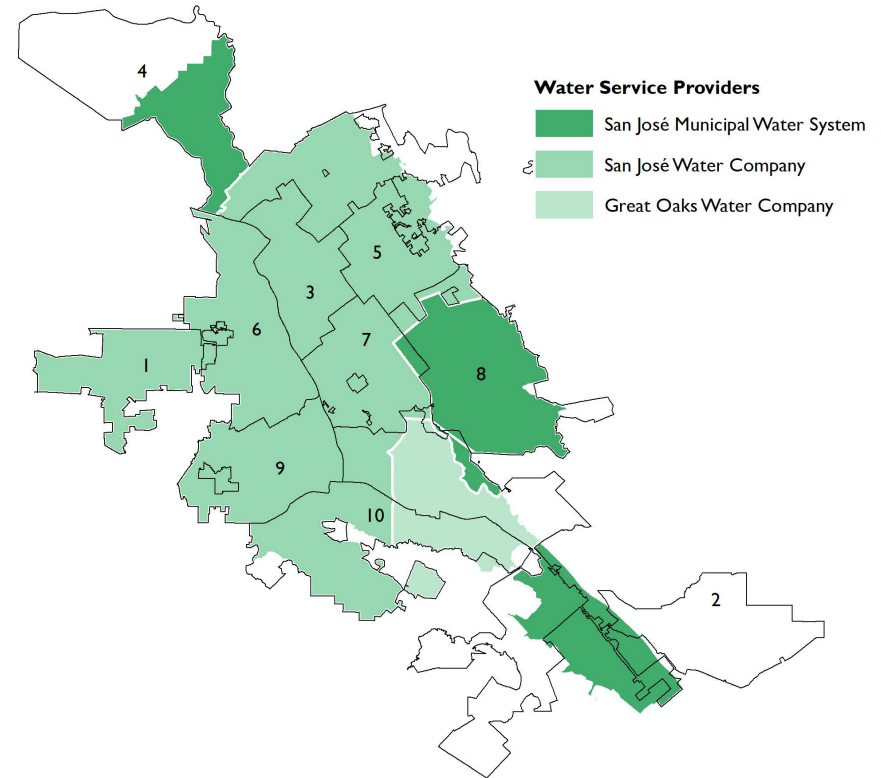
RETAIL WATER DELIVERY

ESD operates and maintains the San José Municipal Water System (Muni Water), which serves about 27,000 customers in North San José, Alviso, Evergreen, Edenvale, and Coyote Valley. Other local San José water retailers include Great Oaks Water Company (which serves Blossom Valley, Santa Teresa, Edenvale, Coyote Valley, and Almaden Valley) and the San José Water Company (which serves Downtown, West San José, Alum Rock, and Almaden Valley, among others).

The average monthly water bill for Muni Water customers was \$114.48, a 17 percent rate increase from the prior year. Muni Water rates have increased in recent years due to higher wholesale water rates and other inflationary costs; the rates are consistent with those of other San José retail water providers.

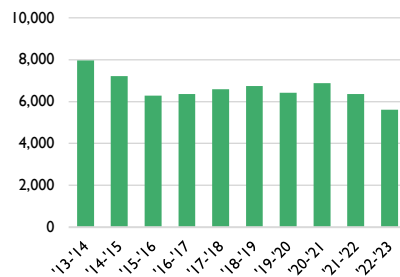
In 2022-23, Muni Water delivered over 5,600 million gallons of water to its customers, down 29 percent from ten years ago. Muni Water met federal water quality standards in 99.9 percent of water samples taken (target: 100%).*

* For more information on water quality, see the [2022 Water Quality Report](#).

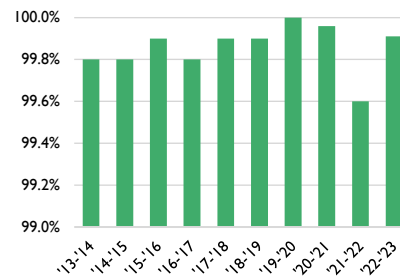


Note: According to ESD, areas in white are served by private well systems. Source: Auditor map based on Environmental Services Department data

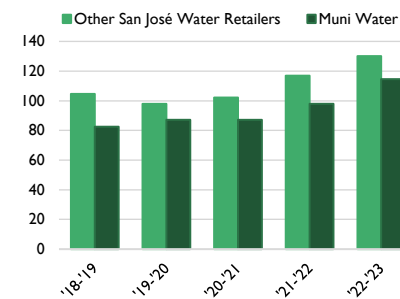
Millions of Gallons of Water Delivered to Muni Water Customers



% of Water Samples Meeting State and Federal Water Quality Standards



Comparison of Monthly Residential Water Bills



Note: Rates are based on water usage of 13 hundred cubic feet (HCF). Rates for 'Other San José Water Retailers' in 2018-19 are estimates.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT

ESD manages and operates the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility – one of the largest advanced wastewater treatment facility in the Western United States. The facility is co-owned with the City of Santa Clara, and provides wastewater treatment for approximately 1.4 million residents in San José and surrounding communities. DOT maintains the City’s sanitary sewer system (see *Transportation chapter*) that flows to the facility. ESD also manages pretreatment programs to control for pollutants at their source. ESD wastewater treatment operations account for the largest share of ESD employees: 324 full-time budgeted positions out of 582 total.

The Wastewater Facility continues to meet the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s permit requirements for water discharged into the San Francisco Bay. In 2022-23, pollutant discharge requirements were met or surpassed 100 percent of the time.

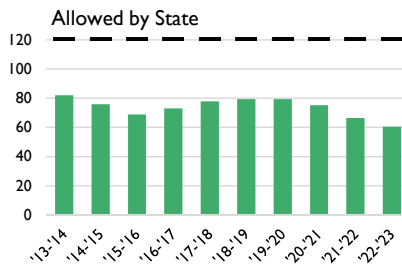
The cost per million gallons treated was \$2,067 in 2022-23. Aging infrastructure at the Facility has required increased maintenance and capital costs. In accordance with the Plant Master Plan adopted in 2013, the City is moving forward with over \$2 billion in long-term capital improvement projects to upgrade and rebuild the facility over the next 30 years.*

* For more information, see the [Capital Improvement Program webpage](#).



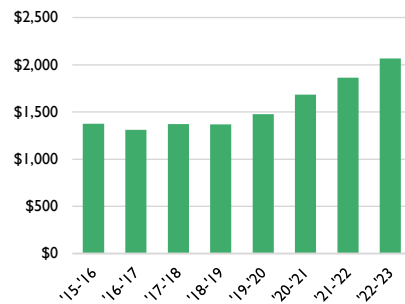
Aerial photo of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility
Source: Environmental Services Department

Millions of Gallons per Day Discharged to Bay During Average Dry Weather Season

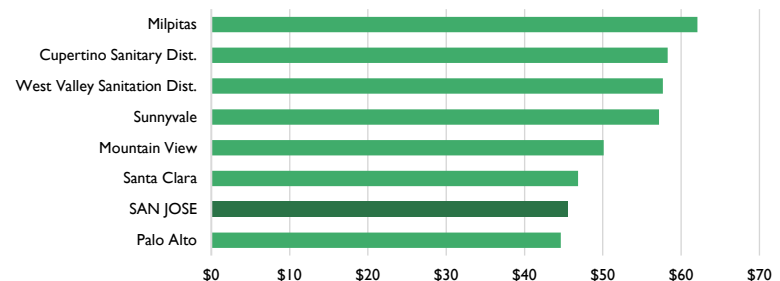


Note: Based on [2022 Annual Self-Monitoring Report](#).

Cost per Millions of Gallons Treated



Comparison of Monthly Sewer Rates* (2022-23)



* Sewer rates pay for costs of the sewer system as well as wastewater treatment.
Sources: Rates listed on local government websites for municipalities provided.

RECYCLED WATER

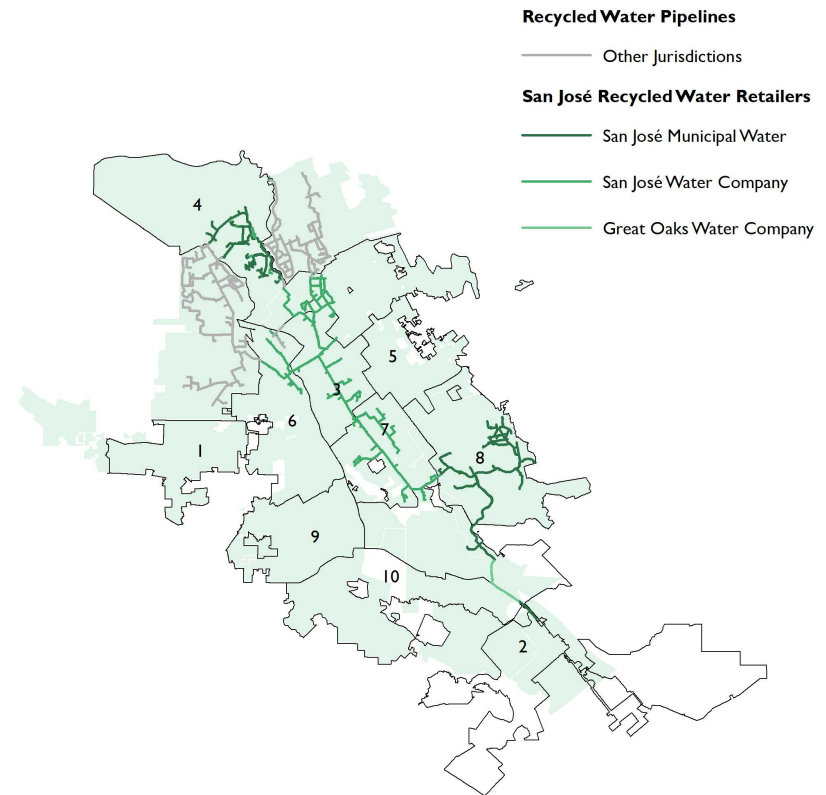
The South Bay Water Recycling System (SBWR) includes over 153 miles of pipeline that provides recycled water for parks, golf courses, school grounds, and commercial landscapes. In addition, SBWR also provides recycled water for agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses including cooling towers, power generation plants, and data centers, among others. SBWR currently provides recycled water to the cities of San José, Santa Clara, and Milpitas.

To provide SBWR customers higher quality recycled water, the cities of San José and Santa Clara partner with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to produce up to 8 million gallons per day of highly purified water at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. The purified water is mixed with the recycled water produced by the Regional Wastewater Facility.

In 2022-23, SBWR delivered about 4 billion gallons of recycled water to over 1,000 customers, who paid \$3.98* per hundred cubic feet of water. SBWR met recycled water quality standards 100 percent of the time during the same period.

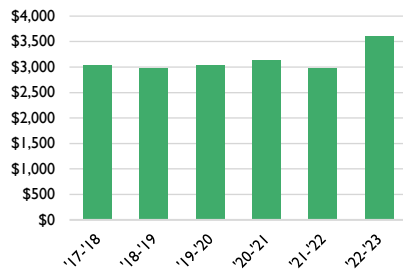
The cost per million gallons of recycled water delivered was about \$3,600 in 2022-23.

* This rate is for City of San José Municipal Water customers; other SBWR provider rates may vary.

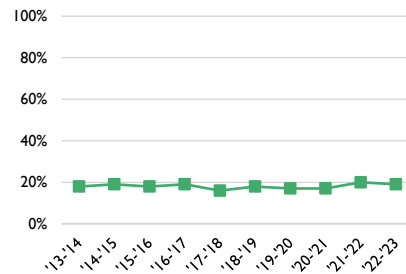


Source: Auditor map based on Environmental Services Department data

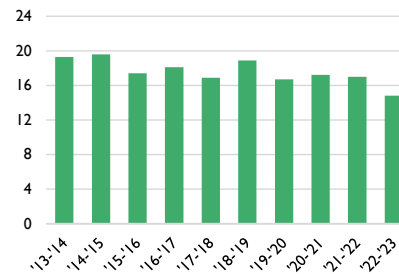
Cost per Million Gallons of Recycled Water Delivered



% of Wastewater Recycled for Beneficial Purposes during Dry Weather Periods



Millions of Gallons Per Day Diverted during Dry Weather Periods



Millions of Gallons of Recycled Water Delivered Annually

