# Tributary Tribune

San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant

FALL 2004


## Source Control Inspections: Defined

The San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's (Plant) Source Control Pretreatment Program is required by law to conduct routine facility inspections.

The different types of inspections (in order of most common to least common) are described below to help you better understand the Source Control Pretreatment Program, and plan for future inspections.

**Sampling Inspections**

Sampling inspections are conducted to collect samples for compliance monitoring and sewer service and use charge billing. During sampling inspections the inspector may review your monitoring equipment, including pH meters and flow meters, and record the readings. The inspector may also record sample point conditions and record any abnormalities observed.

**Compliance Inspections**

Compliance inspections are **unannounced** inspections, conducted one to four times per year to verify that your facility is meeting its permit conditions and discharge limits. These inspections may include sampling and usually take about an hour to complete.

During a compliance inspection, the inspector may interview your facility representative to discuss practices that either support compliance (such as improving pH-probe calibration procedures) or risk non-compliance (such as observing poor housekeeping).

The inspector may review your facility's compliance history, current contacts, and in-house self-monitoring records. The inspector may also inspect chemical storage areas, wastewater generating processes, treatment areas, sample points and monitoring equipment.

**Annual Inspections**

Annual inspections are usually conducted once per year and are similar to compliance inspections except that they are more detailed. These inspections are generally scheduled in advance, and require a few hours to complete.

In addition to performing elements of a compliance inspection, the inspector may review site shifts and hours, waste manifests, changes to the treatment system, and operational status and calibration of monitoring equipment. The inspector will also check if there are any new process additions or deletions in place, or any new dilution streams that may affect your permit requirements.

**Permit Inspections**

Permit inspections are conducted when a company applies for a new Industrial Wastewater Discharge permit and may also be conducted when an existing Industrial Wastewater Discharge permit is renewed or amended.

Permit inspections are **two-part inspections** that are scheduled in advance. Depending on the complexity and size of your site, inspections can take anywhere from one to three hours (or more) to complete.

During the **first part**, an inspector will review your facility's permit application and supporting documents. It's critical that a knowledgeable facility representative familiar with the site plans and Hazardous Material Management Plan be available to answer questions.

*continued on next page*


**www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/esd**

The *Tributary Tribune* serves the cities of San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino Sanitary District, West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga), County Sanitation Districts 2-3, Sunol & Burbank Sanitary Districts

The **second part** consists of a facility inspection to verify information from your permit application. Aspects of the annual and compliance inspections may also be covered.

Emphasis may be placed on:

- verifying the industrial process in use
- equipment location and layout
- reviewing waste stream plumbling
- chemicals used on-site
- treatment system controls
- sample point suitability
- confirming that all monitoring equipment is operational and properly calibrated.

Allowing access to areas not typically covered in compliance or sampling inspections should be anticipated, including rooftops, equipment closets, plumbing chases, clean rooms, non-wastewater generating processes, solid waste storage, etc.

### Spill Inspections

If your facility has a **spill to the sanitary system**, you must notify your inspector *and* the Plant at **408-945-5300 immediately**. For spills to the storm drain system, you must also notify your stormwater management program (see "Reporting Storm Drain Spills" below).

The inspector(s) assigned to perform the spill inspection will document the facts of the spill. Your company will need to demonstrate that adequate measures were taken to contain the spill and that corrective measures will be taken to prevent any future spills. Sampling and/or compliance inspection(s) may also be conducted.

### Closure Inspections

A closure inspection is **required** for either complete facility closure or manufacturing process closure. These inspections will verify compliance with discharge limits, the removal of process equipment, a review of hauling records for chemicals and wastes, and the final closure date.

## Reporting Storm Drain Spills

**The following phone numbers are for contacting your local stormwater management program in case of spills. Remember that industrial process waters or wastewaters that enter storm drains or come close to the storm drain system (by entering the driveway, gutter, etc) must be reported to the Water Pollution Control Plant/Source Control program. Spills to the storm drain must be reported to your local stormwater management program.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **San José** | | **(408)-945-3000** |
| **Santa Clara** | | **(408)-615-3080** |
| **Milpitas** | **(for spills & incidents in progress)** | **911** |
| **Milpitas** | **(for reporting spills that previously occurred)** | **(408)-586-3351** |
| **Campbell** | | **(408)-866-2150** |
| **Cupertino** | | **(408)-777-3269** |
| **Saratoga** | | **(408)-868-1200** |
| **Los Gatos** | | **(408)-399-5770** |

**Current as of September 2004**

# Protect the Bay: Prevent Pipe Corrosion!

Copper can be toxic to plankton and can affect the reproduction and growth of shellfish. Approximately 14% of the copper entering the South San Francisco Bay comes from pipe corrosion. While this might seem like a small part of the problem, copper from pipe corrosion is easy to reduce. There are **two key points** to remember.

**Use Less Corrosive Fluxes**

The American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) B813 flux standard limits flux corrosivity, which reduces pipe corrosion. Designers, engineers, facility managers and contractors are urged to specify B813 flux whenever feasible.

**Follow Good Design and Plumbing Practices**

Plumbing engineers and system designers can often reduce pipe corrosion with design adjustments to velocity, temperature and other factors. The use of skilled plumbers and maintenance workers familiar with good installation and repair techniques will make a difference to the Bay.

The City of San José Environmental Services Department has two factsheets for system designers and plumbers, respectively, specifying several good practices. You can get copies by calling **(408)-945-3000** or you can download them from our website at:

*www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/esd*

# Free Water Surveys

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is offering commercial and industrial businesses in Santa Clara County a **free water survey** to evaluate and identify potential water conservation projects. To qualify, a business must use at least 1,000-gallons of water per day.

Once qualified, participation consists of providing access to review current water use records and providing any historical water use data you may have. You will receive a final report identifying recommended water conservation projects, including information on estimated payback periods and available rebate programs.

While there is no obligation to implement the recommended projects, the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant encourages conservation and can provide financial assistance through the Water Efficient Technologies (WET) program for qualifying projects.

Twelve to fifteen companies will be selected to participate. A team from Brown, Vence and Associates (BVA) is conducting the survey now, on a first-to-apply, first-served basis. The survey is voluntary and not part of any discharge permit requirements.

Businesses are encouraged to participate and can contact Ann Guy of BVA at **(415) 434-0900**, to apply for the **free water survey** or ask any questions.

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*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audio-tape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 277-5533 (Voice) or (800) 735-2929 (CRS).*

**www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/esd**

**Watershed Protection Division**
**City of San José**
**Environmental Services**
**Department**
**3099 North First Street**
**San José, CA 95134**
**Phone 408-945-3000**
**Fax 408-382-8888**

# STP Fees Explained

Businesses operating in the City of San José are required to pay a **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) fee**, commonly referred to as a connection fee. These fees are used to maintain and expand the sewer system and the treatment plant's capacity. All cities and districts discharging to the Plant assess similar connection fees to their users.

STP fees for San José companies are calculated based on expected daily peak discharge volume and daily loading of conventional pollutants (i.e., BOD, TSS, and $NH_3$). The peak expected flow includes all discharges from your facility not just industrial flow.

Each parcel within the City of San José has a fixed and non-transferable STP allocation associated with it. It may be necessary to purchase an additional allocation to meet your company's increased discharge needs. Company's discharging in excess of their STP allocation will be charged for the excess.

An alternative to purchasing additional STP allocation is to consider water conservation projects. **Financial rebates** are offered under the **Water Efficient Technologies (WET)** program for qualifying flow reduction projects.

For more information on the WET program, contact **Geoff Blair** at **(408) 382-8842** or by e-mail at: *geoffrey.blair@sanjoseca.gov*

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