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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 and Burbank Sanitary Districts.

Pretreatment Program Modifies Criteria for Sampling Frequency

San José's Pretreatment program is adjusting the criteria for frequency of wastewater sample collection. The change will apply to Significant Industrial Users (SIUs), which includes all Categorical Industrial Users, in the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant) service area.

The changes in sample collection frequency will:

- Ensure that samples more accurately represent the pollutant characteristics of a facility's wastewater,
- Take into consideration operational practices of the facility that could affect the sample (e.g. variability in pollutant constituents and volume discharged).

How does this affect my facility?

Whether or not this change affects your facility depends on the variability of your wastewater discharges. Dischargers have been segregated into three categories based on discharge characteristics — Consistent, Variable, and Extremely Variable.

- An SIU is considered a Variable discharger if the following are all true:
 1. Discharge is more than 5000 gpd.
 2. Constituents in wastewater discharge that change over time or days.
 3. Wastewater treatment does not include ion exchange, membrane filtration or ultrafiltration.
 4. Discharger may treat concentrated baths.

- Dischargers that have large variability in the waste types collected and treated, such as facilities in the federal Centralized Waste Treatment category, will be considered Extremely Variable.
- All other dischargers will be considered Consistent.

The revised annual sampling frequency is as follows:

Discharge Characteristics	Treatment Plant Sampling	SIU Sampling
Consistent	2	2
Variable	4	4
Extremely Variable	12	12

What's the Reason for the Change?

Since 1998, most permitted businesses were sampled twice a year. In March 2005, the EPA ordered the City of San José to include in all SIU permits a sampling frequency that ensures samples are "representative" for the report period. This means that in cases where the wastewater conditions vary widely, there are enough samples collected to capture the variation in discharge, and reflect the relative amounts of the pollutant parameters discharged.

In response, the City conducted a benchmarking survey of the frequencies used by other Pretreatment Programs to ensure sampling is representative. Based on the survey findings, and further internal review, the City adjusted its criteria for frequency of wastewater sample collection. 🐦

Ask Your Inspector

Q: When is my Self Monitoring Report (SMR) due?

A: The SMR due date and other specific SMR requirements for your facility are located in section "B. SELF MONITORING REQUIREMENTS" of your Wastewater Discharge Permit. This section is in the middle of your permit document, usually starting around page 4 to 7, and includes a box that details when self monitoring reports are to be submitted.

All SMRS are due on the **last working day** of the required reporting month. If the due date is a holiday, the report is due the last working day **before** the holiday.

Section "B" also includes a table that identifies the sampling frequency for each parameter at each sample point. Sampling may be performed any time during the reporting period.

SMR reports may be emailed, mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered. If mailed, completed reports should be sent early enough to ensure delivery on or before the due date. You may fax the completed SMR forms (minus the lab results) to (408) 277-5775, and then send the lab results by mail. ➤

Is Your Facility Ready for an Unannounced Food Service Facility Inspection?



If your facility has a cafeteria, deli or other food service facility, it is subject to inspection. Food service facilities in San José are inspected by City of San José Environmental Inspectors to:

1. Ensure that outdoor and indoor Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being followed.
2. Ensure that storm water requirements are being met.
3. Reduce the amount of grease going to the sanitary sewer.
4. Prevent sanitary sewer overflows to storm drains and creeks.

Inspections are unannounced, and inspectors will ask for the manager of the facility. Managers should be prepared by knowing the location of traps or interceptors, having cleaning records (invoices) on-hand showing cleaning frequencies, and being familiar with BMPs used at the facility.

Specifically, what will a food service facility inspection cover?

Food service facility inspections focus on:

- Grease trap/interceptor and vapor/exhaust hood cleaning records. The minimum cleaning frequency is:
 - Traps – monthly.
 - Interceptors – quarterly.
- These required records must be kept on-site for the inspector's review for 3 years.
- The inside of the interceptor or trap – For adequate cleaning, missing parts like baffles, "T" fittings, or backflow devices and operational condition. You'll be asked to correct any deficiencies.
- Vapor screen cleaning practices. You may be asked to explain or demonstrate your cleaning practices.
- Condition and use of floor drains and mop sinks.
- Sink and floor screens – All drains must have screens, securely fastened in place, to prevent blockages.
- Kitchen fixtures that can generate grease waste. Ensuring all of these fixtures drain through a grease removal device.
- Outside areas, especially:
 - Illegal discharges to landscape, blacktop or other areas. Mop water or other grey water cannot be discharged outside.
 - Spills or overflows in parking lots.
 - Trash or liquid spills and dumping in trash enclosures.

Our inspectors can provide you with a list of kitchen BMPs and a log sheet to document cleaning. Please review the BMPs, the log sheet, and the inspection elements covered in this article with your staff so that they are knowledgeable about these issues. More Information: Please call Joe Denk at (408) 945-3000. ➤

Watershed Workforce

Andrea Gagaoudakis



Andrea Gagaoudakis joined the City of San José's Environmental Services Department in October 2006. Born and raised in Florida, she completed her bachelor's degree in Marine Science and Environmental Studies at the Florida Atlantic University Honor College in Jupiter, FL. Andrea is an Assistant Environmental Inspector, supporting Source Control by creating and updating sampling schedules, improving the City's database system, inspecting several facilities with temporary discharge permits, training new employees, and sampling in the field. Serving on different teams, Andrea works on procedures and permits, and participates in the Youth Watershed Education Team, which aims to increase watershed awareness through the dissemination of curricula and programs to educators and youth. ➤

2008 Industrial User Academy

This year the Academy will be held on Wednesday, May 14, at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant. Lunch is provided and the day concludes with a guided tour of the Plant. Come join us for a fantastic learning opportunity. Learn about:

- Modifications to sampling frequency criteria
- New regulations and ordinances
- Federal pretreatment standards
- Self-monitoring reports
- Waste Water Permit requirements
- What Inspectors look for during facility inspections

Watch the mail box for your invitation, or ask your Environmental Inspector for one. Seating is limited so RSVP ASAP. For more information contact José Anaya at: jose.anaya@sanjoseca.gov



Get Paid to Save Water

The Water Efficient Technologies (WET) program offers rebates of up to \$50,000 for facilities implementing process and equipment projects to reduce process wastewater flow to the sanitary sewer system. Any business within the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant's service area is eligible.

WET rebates can be a great way to augment financing of your water conservation project. For past program participants, WET rebates have often been the key to reducing the payback period. And, when the equipment goes in — you can save money on your water and sewer bills too!

Sample projects include:

- Rinse water reuse systems
- Automated rinse lines
- Reverse osmosis reject reuse for cooling tower feed water
- Cooling tower upgrades
- Closed-loop cooling systems

For more information on the WET program visit www.slowtheflow.com/whatswet.html, or contact José Anaya or Sharon Newton at (408) 945-3000. Also, visit www.valleywater.org/conservation/ for more water saving tips and rebates! ➤

SAN JOSE/SANTA CLARA
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL PLANT

Wonders of our Water Works

FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS: MARCH - MAY, 2008
Tour Times: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Free Tour

Join us on a FREE tour of the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant and the wetlands of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Learn firsthand how our everyday activities impact the Bay and its wetlands.



The Plant plays a vital role in protecting and preserving the San Francisco Bay. It is one of the largest advanced wastewater treatment facilities in the nation and a marvel of engineering and technology. The adjacent refuge is the largest urban wildlife refuge in the U.S. and home to two endangered species, the California clapper rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse. Located along the Pacific Flyway, millions of shorebirds and waterfowl stop to refuel at the refuge during the spring and fall migrations.

Space is limited; RSVP today! To register, please complete the tour request form at www.sanjoseca.gov/esd. Don't forget to indicate your preferred date and time.

For questions, e-mail carolina.camarena@sanjoseca.gov or call (408) 975-2551.

NOTE: Tour is available to adults and children over 10 years old.



TributaryTribune

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San José Adopts Green Vision Cites Economic Growth, Stewardship

An ambitious and comprehensive 15-year plan to promote environmental stewardship and grow the San José and Silicon Valley economy has been adopted by the San José City Council.

The City's Green Vision and its workplan lay out a roadmap of more than 150 initiatives for becoming the world center of clean technology innovation, sustainable living, and green transportation. The Vision's far-reaching goals include job creation, energy efficiencies, green building, zero waste, water resources, land use planning, and a trails network augmenting local transportation corridors.

In partnership with clean technology companies and leaders throughout the community, San José will address the climate crisis head on, while creating a new economic base for our region. Aided by the Silicon Valley's history of innovation and environmental stewardship, the Green Vision paves the way for partnerships and collaborations with local entrepreneurs to develop the technologies that will ensure reliable, clean energy sources, reduce carbon emissions, minimize the use of non-renewable power, and protect the environment.

For more information: Visit the City's website at www.sanjoseca.gov/



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) 945-3000 (Voice) or (800) 735-2929 (CRS).



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