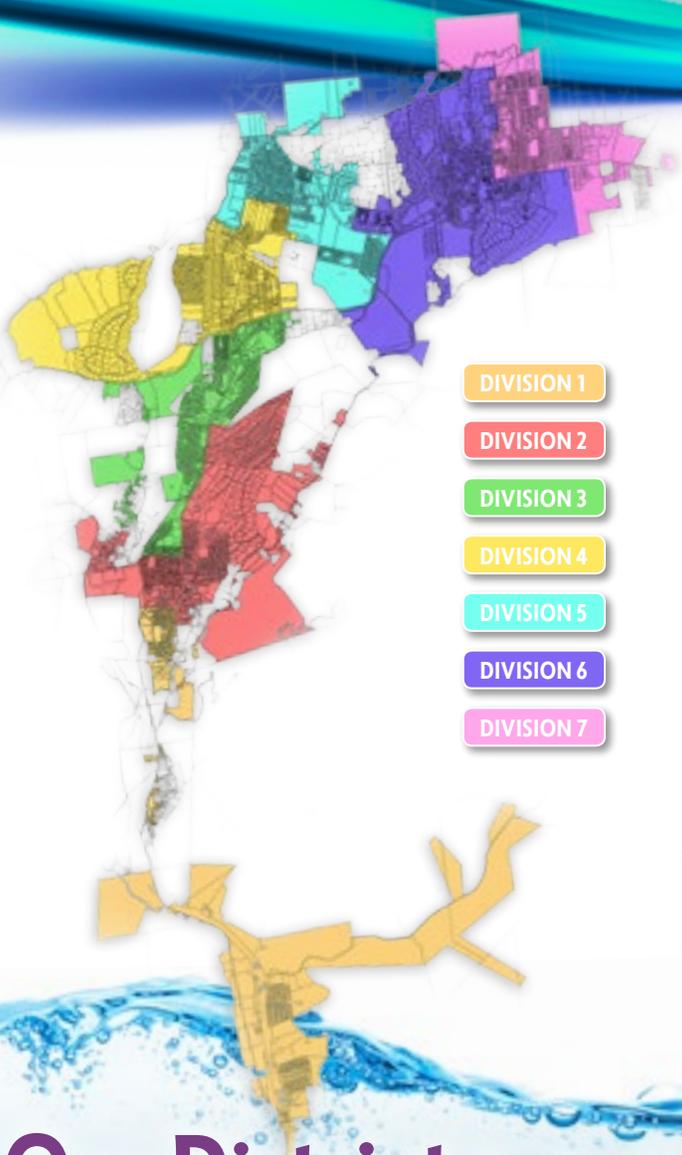




OJAI VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

# PIPELINE

SUMMER 2014 • ISSUE NUMBER 25



- DIVISION 1
- DIVISION 2
- DIVISION 3
- DIVISION 4
- DIVISION 5
- DIVISION 6
- DIVISION 7

## New OVSD Election Divisions

Pursuant to election laws, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District has updated its election division boundaries within the District so that populations will be closer to equal in the seven divisions.

When residents expect to vote for a certain candidate for the OVSD Board of Directors this November, they might discover that they are now in a new division where other candidates are running or there is no election at all in that division this year. The Sample Ballot will list candidates, information about them, and election divisions.

This year, there will be elections in Divisions 2, 4 and 6. Divisions 1, 3, 5 and 7 will be up for election in two years.

**To determine your voting division please visit [www.ojaisan.org/maps](http://www.ojaisan.org/maps)**

## Our District By the Numbers

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>1,500,000</b> Gallons of treated sewage per day        | <b>23,000</b> Population served              | <b>36</b> Parts per million (PPM) total nitrogen in 1979                 |
| <b>9,000,000</b> Gallons per day during March 2005 storm. | <b>2,500</b> Septic systems in our watershed | <b>4</b> Parts per million (PPM) total nitrogen in 2013, a 90% reduction |
| <b>5</b> Pump stations                                    | <b>6-24</b> Inch diameter lines              | <b>1,200</b> Cubic yards of compost                                      |
| <b>120</b> Miles of mainline                              | <b>62</b> Accounts per mile                  | <b>295</b> Chemicals tested for  |
| <b>2,240</b> Manholes                                     | <b>7,547</b> Parcels served                  |  |

## Inflow & Infiltration

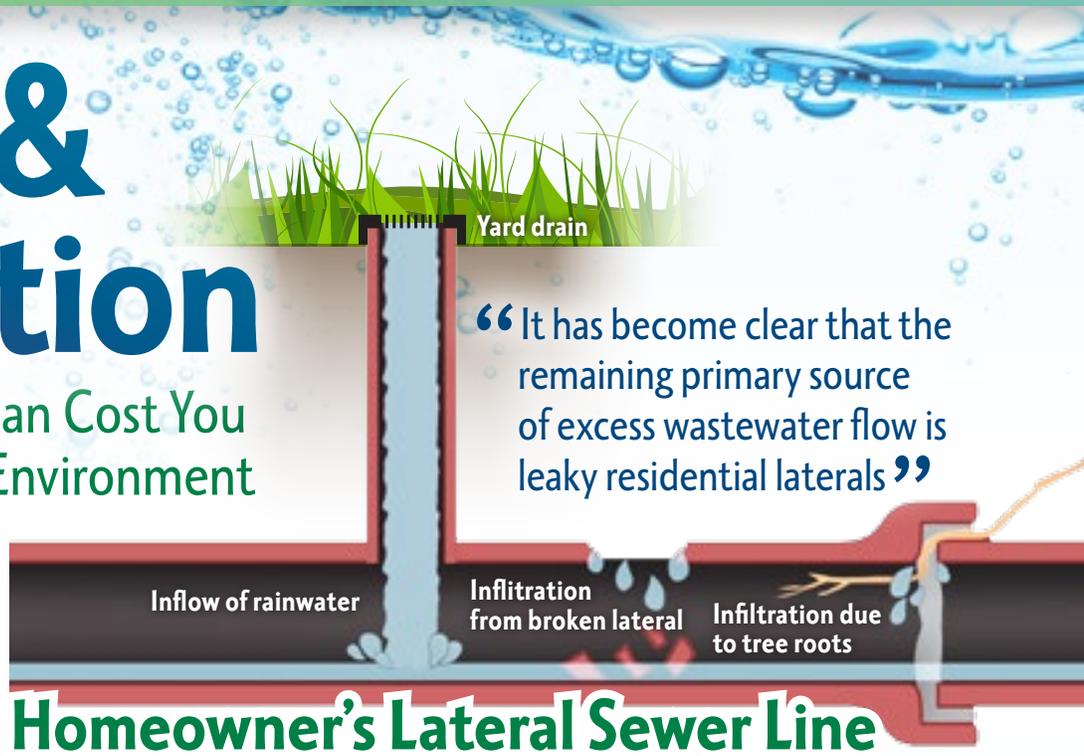
### Leaky Sewer Laterals Can Cost You Money and Harm the Environment

It will rain again, and when it does the work of the Ojai Valley Sanitary District (OVSD) to collect wastewater and to protect the environment will get even more challenging and intense. That's because of the two "I's"—infiltration and inflow (I & I)—that can overwhelm the system and lead to potential sewage spills.

As an OVSD customer, you might be inadvertently contributing to the I&I problem, and might be able to help alleviate it.

Infiltration is the process of groundwater leaking into buried sewer pipes when they crack due to age or encroaching tree roots. This frequently occurs in the lateral, the resident-owned sewer pipe that carries wastewater between the house and the Sanitary System main line under the street.

Inflow is rainwater flowing directly into open sewer pipes as when a property owner incorrectly hooks the roof drain to the



lateral or opens a lateral cleanout to reduce standing water.

In California, unlike back east and in the midwest, sewer systems and storm drains are separate entities, and the sanitary sewer system is not designed to handle storm water.

Residents can help reduce I&I and thus protect the environment in a couple of important ways: Maintain your lateral, making sure it is in good shape and functioning properly, and do not drain storm water directly into your lateral (see below).

Over the last quarter-century, OVSD

has aggressively repaired and replaced sewer pipes in its system to reduce leaks and infiltration. To do so the District maintains a schedule that routinely and consistently cleans the system and performs preventive maintenance and performs inspection of sewer pipes using video cameras all year long throughout the system.

Given Ojai Valley Sanitary District's rigorous monitoring and upkeep of its own system, it has become clear that the remaining primary source of excess wastewater flow is leaky residential laterals, OVSD officials say.

## Sewer Lateral Maintenance is YOUR Responsibility

Unless and until you experience a major drain stoppage or even the grief of a sewage backup into your home, you probably never even think about your sewer lateral. That's the underground pipe in your yard that carries wastewater from your house to the Sanitary District sewer line under the street.

### Basic Sewer Lateral Facts:

- You own the entire lateral from the house to the point of connection to the Sanitary District sewer—not just to the sidewalk or curb.
- You are responsible for your lateral's maintenance and good working order.



# Sanitary Sewer System



## Don't Put Fat, Oil or Grease Down the Drain

When grease goes down the drain and congeals, hardens and accumulates, it can cause sewer system blockages and eventually, sewage spills into the environment.

Because prevention is the best medicine, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District conducts a commercial fats, oils and greases (FOG) program aimed at stopping discharges of FOG into the sewer system.

OVSD officials report that there are some residential areas that show grease in the local sewer line, but nothing compared to the volume of grease seen in sewer lines immediately downstream of concentrations of restaurants throughout the Ojai Valley.

The OVSD inspector makes unannounced visits to all the restaurants – ranging from gourmet eateries to fast food establishments – in the Ojai Valley at least once a year. Follow-up visits are made if circumstances warrant.

The inspector monitors and reviews the disposal of grease, checks to make sure that grease traps are of the appropriate size and are being maintained and used properly, and educates personnel in best management practices in grease handling and removal.

Restaurant management and personnel generally show a spirit of cooperation with the inspector and the program, reports Ron Sheets, OVSD Operations Superintendent. The District regularly uses video cameras to inspect sewer lines, which also provides a check on the FOG program's progress. "Prevention is an ongoing job," he says.

**Restaurant cooperation is vital to stopping fat, oil and grease clogs before they start.**

### Preventative Maintenance Will Increase the Life of Your Lateral

Preventive maintenance begins with being smart about what you put down your drains. **Pour off fats, oils and grease** from pans into a disposable container and place it in the trash. If grease goes down the drain, it can congeal and cause blockages in your lateral, possible backups of raw sewage into your home and/or clogs in the Sanitary District sewer line that could result in sewage spills.

**Wipe down all greasy pots, pans and utensils** thoroughly with paper towels before washing them and place the towels into your

garbage receptacle.

**Place all used wipes, even if they're labeled "flushable" into the trash.** Flushing these wipes down the toilet can clog up your lateral or the sanitary system pumps causing costly breakdowns or even sewage spills into the environment.

Be aware that the **roots of trees and shrubs commonly grow into sewer laterals**, particularly at the joints, and can cause major blockages.

This can happen any time of the year, but **particularly during droughts** because roots searching for moisture will in-

## Never Flush Unused Medications

**T**o safely dispose of unused medications do not flush them down the toilet. That's actually flushing them directly into the Ventura River, where they foul the aquatic environment. It's bad medicine for fish, frogs and ultimately, humans.

Instead, deliver expired or unused drugs to the pharmaceutical disposal box in the lobby of the Ojai Police Department (402 S. Ventura St., near City Hall), Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Before placing them in the disposal box, please remove the medications from their original containers and put them into zip plastic bags. No syringes or needles are accepted.

Or, keep the medications in their original containers, scratching your name off to protect your privacy. Bag them, put the bag into a box and place into the trash close to the time the rubbish is picked up.

vade pipeline joints. Don't plant trees or shrubs directly above or close to, the location of the lateral.

**Contact a plumber for a video inspection** of your lateral if you are experiencing recurrent stoppages or persistent slow drains.

**If you're buying or selling a home**, get the lateral video-inspected. As a prospective buyer, you have a termite inspection and necessary repair, a roof inspection, etc. to protect yourself. Checking out the lateral is every bit as important to avoid being saddled with potentially costly repairs.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILLIAM STONE, DIVISION 1 - VICE CHAIRMAN  
RANDY BURG, DIVISION 2 - ASST. SECRETARY  
PETER KAISER, DIVISION 3  
WILLIAM O'BRIEN, DIVISION 4 - SECRETARY  
RUSS BAGGERLY, DIVISION 5  
STANLEY GREENE, DIVISION 6  
WILLIAM MURPHY, DIVISION 7 - CHAIRMAN

### GENERAL MANAGER

JEFF PALMER

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR  
SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PLEASE CONTACT  
LAURIE JOHNSON AT 805/646-5548  
OR EMAIL LAURIE.JOHNSON@OJAISAN.ORG.

# Unpermitted Sewer Connections

## Is Everyone Paying Their Fair Share?

**T**he Ojai Valley Sanitary District continues to identify and investigate suspected unpermitted (bootlegged) sewer connections. Since the enforcement program began, OVSD inspectors have approached owners of more than 250 parcels with suspected unpermitted connections.

Several of these residents were required to purchase new connections, often taking advantage of the District's deferred payment

plan for the connection fee. Some pulled out food preparation areas associated with unpermitted connections. Others were found to be in compliance.

"This is a fairness issue," said OVSD General Manager Jeff Palmer. "When an unpermitted connection exists, that property owner is not paying for the service, and is being subsidized by all the other ratepayers in the District. Our purpose with this ordi-

nance and its enforcement is to make sure everyone is treated the same and everyone pays their fair share.

"We're roughly four years into our enforcement program, and we can deem it successful so far. It's an ongoing effort," he said.

Unpermitted sewer connections typically occur when structures at the rear of properties – such as garages or pool houses – are converted into separate residences, usually as rental units for additional income. The property owner pays for only one sewer connection to the main house, when he should also be paying connection and service fees for the second residence.

Even as they identify and investigate suspected unpermitted connections, OVSD officials are encouraging the public to help in the effort to increase fairness. 🌱

### What is an Unpermitted Sewer Connection?

Separate Unit = living area with a food preparation area and bathroom facilities/toilet.

If you are aware of any situations that should be checked, you may contact the Ojai Valley Sanitary District office anonymously at (805) 646-5548.

**Nutrient-Rich, Class A Composted Biosolids are Available at NO COST From the Ojai Valley Sanitary District.**

Pick up a bag, or a truckload, of this highly beneficial soil amendment at the District's wastewater treatment plant located at 6363 North Ventura Avenue.

To Ensure  
Availability

Call (805) 646-5548  
between 8:00 a.m.  
and 3:00 p.m.