



News Release

Environmental Services Department

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Residents Invited to Envision Wastewater Facility and New Land Uses at May 16 Workshop

2,600-Acre Site Near Shoreline can Accommodate Mix of Development, Habitat Restoration, and Recreation

Jobs-based development, a clean tech center, algae-farming, energy facilities, habitat restoration, kayaking, soccer fields, and a living museum – all tied to sustainable design practices – are just some of the exciting possibilities the future holds for the large expanse of land at the 2,600-acre property of the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant). Residents are invited this May 16 to tour the Plant and participate in a workshop where they can learn about a master planning process that could turn this facility into a regional asset and world-class showcase of the unique South Bay shoreline.

Situated between Milpitas and Alviso, the Plant has unceasingly worked around the clock for 53-years to clean the South Bay's wastewater before it flows into the San Francisco Bay. Today, the Plant serves 1.4 million people across eight cities, and treats about 110 million gallons every day, with 10 percent of that amount receiving further treatment and being recycled for irrigation and industrial uses. The award-winning Plant is the largest advanced wastewater facility on the West Coast, and is a marvel of technology and engineering. But the Plant is aging and much of its infrastructure needs rebuilding. The cost of rebuilding the Plant is estimated at approximately \$1 billion, making it one of the region's largest public investments. How to best rebuild the Plant and best use its property is the focus of the Plant Master Plan.

“The Plant Master Plan is both a very important and very exciting project for our region,” stated Environmental Services Director John Stufflebean. “We can rebuild this facility so that it continues to protect Bay water quality and the public health, and we can make the Plant site a treasure for the region. Public participation is vital to determining what happens on this unique site, so I hope many residents will join us for the community workshop.”

The May 16 event is open to everyone, but specifically targeted at residents of San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino, Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga who are directly served by the Plant. The day includes an optional bus tour of the facility from 1:30-2:00 p.m., a 2:00-2:30 Open House, and a 2:30 presentation and public input session. Attendees will use handheld clickers to weigh in on a variety of land use ideas.

The Plant Master Plan is a three-year process, and this first community workshop will be followed by a summer of Plant tours that will also allow for continued public input.

The Plant and workshop are located at 700 Los Esteros Road in San José, accessed from Zanker Road off of Highway 237. For more information or to make a reservation for the May 16 bus tour and workshop, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan or call (408) 975-2556. Starting June 6, there will also be two-hour tours of the Plant on the first and third Thursdays and Saturdays every month through October. These can also be scheduled at the same Web site or phone number. For those who do plan to attend, arriving 15 minutes early to park and shuttle to the event tent at the Plant is recommended.

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About the Plant Master Plan for the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant

The Plant Master Plan will chart a course for the next 30 years that continues the Plant’s success in protecting public health and the environment and in supporting the region’s economy. The intent is to achieve the four master plan goals (below) in coordination with other key planning efforts, such as the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the Watershed Management Initiative, the City of San José’s Envision 2040 General Plan, and the City of San José’s Green Vision — including initiatives pertaining to energy, water recycling, and zero waste.

Plant Master Plan Goals

Operational — Result in a reliable, flexible Plant that can respond to regulations and changing conditions.

Economical — Develop cost effective technical and land use options to benefit customers.

Environmental — Improve habitat and minimize impacts to the local and global environment.

Social — Maximize community benefits through improved aesthetics and recreational uses.