

For Immediate Release:

San José, CA
July 22, 2009

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***“Sleeper Hit of the Year” Returns
Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours Resume for 2009***

Event: Free tours showcasing the science and technology behind the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, where every day more than 110 million gallons of wastewater from 1.4 million residents and 16,000 businesses across eight cities is cleaned. Participants will see where nearly 90% of this water is discharged to the Bay, and learn about how the remaining 11% becomes recycled water.

When: **First and third Thursdays** of each month, 10:00 a.m. to noon, and **first and third Saturdays** 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., now through October.

Where: The San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant
700 Los Esteros Road, San José, CA 95134

Reservations: Reservations are required. Visit: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/> to make a reservation, or call (408) 975-2556.

Background: Plant Tours were heralded in 2008 by Scott Herhold of the *San Jose Mercury News* as “One of the sleeper hits of the year.” The 2009 tours include a new feature: In addition to exploring the Plant and seeing the treatment process in action, residents will have the opportunity to learn about and provide input on best uses of the Plant’s 2,600-acre site.

The newly introduced public input session serves to gather information about public values as part of a master planning effort. The outcome will be a Plant Master Plan for repairing and upgrading the Plant and its processes, and for uses of the Plant lands. The new master plan could transform the Plant and its lands from a hidden necessity into a world-class facility and a regional asset.

Changes at the Plant will also support San José’s Green Vision goals. Reducing energy use, generating more electrical power from renewable sources, and increasing recycled water production and use support the Green Vision goals of energy self-sufficiency, receiving power from renewable sources, and recycling or beneficially reusing 100 percent of wastewater. San José’s Green Vision is a 10-point plan to invigorate the economy and improve the environment over a 15-year period. Learn more about the Green Vision at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/>. Learn more about the Plant and the master planning process at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/>.