



## WELCOME MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our valued customers. We remain committed to providing safe and effective sewer service to our community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Please visit our website at [www.murphyssd.org](http://www.murphyssd.org) to join our mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletters.



## MURPHYS SANITARY DISTRICT

15 Ernest Street, Suite A

Murphys, CA 95247

Phone: 209-728-3094

[www.murphyssd.org](http://www.murphyssd.org)

Office Hours Monday—Friday 9am to 3pm

Emergency Response-Available 24/7

### 2024 Board of Directors

Paige McMath Jue President

Steve Gonzales Vice President

Marty Mellera Secretary

Joseph Fontana Treasurer

Bruce Miller Parliamentarian

### Administration Staff

Kristina Fillmore Administration Manager

Amy Milliken Accounting Clerk

Teri Schroeder Office Assistant

### Operations Staff

Dan Murphy CPO/Operations Manager

Clay Onstad Collections Supervisor

Eric Hemstad Operator

## PROJECT UPDATES

### COLLECTION SYSTEM

#### IMPROVEMENT

An application was submitted to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for funding assistance to replace antiquated clay material pipe 50+ years old. The application identifies 23 projects necessary to improve the sewer collection system deficiencies. Unfortunately, potential grant funding has been suspended for CIP projects through the 2024 fiscal year due to California's cut in the general fund by \$200 million for wastewater projects. The District will leave this project in the queue for grant consideration if revolving funds become available. Meanwhile, alternate project funding possibilities are being explored and the District has identified areas of the CIP in more immediate need of repair. These identified sections will be sent out to bid starting in the New Year.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE II

An application was submitted to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for funding assistance to replace the antiquated sewer force main, replace the existing sand filtration system, improve the disinfection system piping, install back up generator, facilities upgrade, install security and public safety fencing. This project will be construction ready if funding becomes available. Applying for grants does not guarantee the District will win the grant. Specific requirements need to be met and the application will undergo a review process which is often high demand and competitive.

## ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The District's priority is serving our rate payers by managing a safe, reliable, and cost effective sewer system. Our team is working hard to maintain a collection and treatment system that flushes and flows when you need it! The money you pay each month is reinvested into the system that serves your homes and businesses. Residential rates have not been adjusted for 14 years and commercial rates have had no usage adjustment since 2018. Costs continue to increase to maintain and operate your sewer system and the Board determined it is time to review the financial health of the District. The Board has approved a proposal with Hansford Economic Consulting to conduct a sewer cost of service evaluation for a number of reasons; including meeting revenue requirements, assess and evaluate existing rate structure, addressing ongoing need for capital improvements, and complying with legal requirements. The study will take 6-8 months to complete and we will continue to be dedicated to transparency with our customers throughout this entire process.

As always, our customers are welcome to attend the public board meetings in person or remotely if more convenient on the second Thursday of the month at 10 am. Please visit our website and click the current board meeting date and then click join remote meeting. If you need assistance please call our office.

## Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG)

### Inspection Update:

**CHANGE ALERT!**

Quarterly grease trap inspections will now be **paperless!** Staff will continue to inspect on the same quarterly schedule and email your inspection report to the email your business has on file.

**NEW SERVICE!**



### Can it, Cool it, Trash it!

MSD would like to invite residents to take advantage of our used cooking oil pick up service kicking off in January of 2024!

Disposing of used cooking oil down your drain can clog pipes and cause backups. Instead, please call our office and schedule a pick up to safely dispose.

We will accept up to a gallon of used cooking oil collection per household. It will need to be in a disposable sealed container. There is no additional charge for this service. Pick up service will be available every Tuesday from 9 am–2 pm. Please call the office at 209-728-3094 to schedule your pick up.

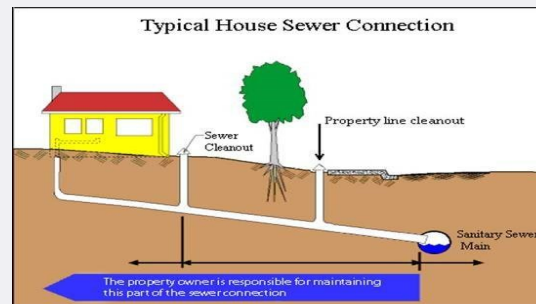
Please help keep oil out of the drain!

## Who's Responsible for a Sewer Drain Backup?

Sewer backups are a dirty business! But who's responsibility is it? Sewer backups cause millions of damage for households. Many homeowners don't know they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their pipe (also known as a sewer lateral) from their home to the sewer main. The lateral is generally maintained and repaired by the homeowner, and therefore their responsibility. If the backup occurs due to a problem in MSD sewer main, it becomes the responsibility of the District.

This is the primary reason we stress to not flush sanitary wipes, feminine hygiene products, medications, trash, medals & plastics, oils, or any consumer item that is not toilet paper. The District's sewer collections system is a combination of pumps, pipelines, and other equipment that transports household and commercial wastewater to the District's treatment facility. It is during this process that sewer backups or spills happen and by taking preventative measures you can help reduce the chances of an expensive repair. If you experience a back up, give us a call first!

Thank you for doing your part!



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Payments Due 1/28/2024, 2/28/24, and 3/28/24 Statements will be mailed on the 1st of each month

### Board Meeting Dates and Times:

January 11, 2024 at 10am

February 8, 2024 at 10am

March 14, 2024 at 10am

### Upcoming Office Closures 2024:

New Years Day, January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15th

Presidents Day, February 19th



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PONDS

### Do's and Don'ts for a Healthy Lateral

Only human waste, soaps, toilet paper, food ground in a garbage disposal, and household cleaning products should go into your sewer line. Keep wipes, paper towels, tissues, fats, oils, grease, medicines, and toxic chemicals out of your lateral.