

FROM SOURCE TO TAP: How Water is Treated and Delivered

OCTOBER 20, 2016



When we turn on our taps and get clean drinking water, most of us never think about how it got there. The process of obtaining water from the source and delivering it to our homes and businesses is far from simple.

Most of our water comes from underground aquifers. About a third of our supply travels hundreds of miles from the source - the mountains of Northern California - via the State Water Project.

Regardless of whether it comes from snowmelt or aquifers, the water is pumped and delivered to the City's treatment facilities. There it is filtered

to remove suspended particles and disinfected to make it clean and safe.

After treatment, the water is distributed to customers in large pipes called water mains, which are buried under roads and maintained by the Public Works Department. Water rates pay for this maintenance.

Smaller pipes take the water from the mains to individual customers, who can be assured that they're getting a resource that has been secured for them and treated to State and Federal standards.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES BY THE NUMBERS



For fiscal year 2016-2017, a total of \$43 million is budgeted for Environmental Resource expenses.

This graphic shows how each dollar of revenue is allocated.

- Labor – 23%
- Landfill Tipping Fees – 17%
- Debt Services and Capital Outlay – 15%
- City Services and Administration Fees – 13%
- Repairs, Maintenance and Fuel – 12%
- Supplies and Recyclable Purchases – 11%
- Contract Services – 8%
- Utilities – 1%

QUICK TRIVIA

The trivia question in our last issue asked how much it costs to flush your toilet. The answer is: Less than 2 cents per flush! That is a great deal compared to the other two options, which were 3 to 5 cents per flush or more than 12 cents per flush.

UPCOMING FACILITIES TOURS:

WASTEWATER

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, October 29
When: 4 p.m. Wednesday, November 2
Where: 6001 S. Perkins Rd.

WATER

When: 4 p.m. Thursday, November 3
Where: 251 S. Hayes Ave.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

When: 4 p.m. Tuesday, November 1
Where: 111 S. Del Norte Blvd.

*We look forward to
connecting with you!*

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Many communities across the country, including Oxnard, participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which enables home and business owners and renters to purchase federally backed flood insurance.

The program is designed to provide a reliable alternative to disaster assistance to help flood victims meet the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents.

More information is available online at www.FloodSmart.gov.

ASK DAN

What is the PHG Report?

Come join us to find out! All City of Oxnard water customers are invited to attend an Oct. 25 meeting to learn about the City's water quality testing programs, review the 2016 report on contaminants and public health goals, and ask questions of staff. The meeting will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. in the City of Oxnard Water Campus Training Room, 251 S. Hayes Ave.

The meeting will focus on the latest Water Quality Public Health Goals Triennial Report, which details regulated contaminants detected in the water supply and how they measure up against public health goals. The City is required to prepare this report every three years.

A public health goal is to ensure the level of a chemical contaminant in drinking water that does not pose a significant risk to health. These goals are non-enforceable standards established by Cal-EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

If you have a question to Ask Dan or an idea for an article topic, please email askdan@oxnard.org.