

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

## PROTECTING WATER QUALITY WITH NEW SEWER DISCHARGE LIMITS



The City of Oxnard is taking steps to revise limits on industrial discharges to the sewer system to protect water resources.

Since discharge limits were last updated in 1999, there have been numerous changes at the Oxnard Wastewater Treatment Plant and within the service area. Many of the discharge conditions and parameters for maximum concentrations of pollutants are no longer effective.

One of the biggest changes since limits were last revised is the addition of Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) that opened in 2012. The facility uses microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet and peroxide treatments in the recycled water purification process.

The new limits will protect the finished water produced at the AWPF, which is currently used for irrigation.

Recycled water from the facility will also be used for industrial processes and to replenish the water supply stored underground in our aquifer. This groundwater will later be pumped from the aquifer and blended with other water sources before it is distributed to customers. The recycled water can also be used as a seawater intrusion barrier, preventing salt water from reaching groundwater supplies.

The AWPF provides a reliable source of water that lessens the City's dependence on costly imported water and groundwater.

The new local limits are in development. The City is meeting with industry partners, after which a public hearing will be held. The changes will then be considered by the City Council and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

*Approval is expected in May 2018.*

### RECYCLED WATER BY THE NUMBERS



**3,499,642 GALLONS** of recycled water delivered each day through



**12 MILES** of pipe serving



**GOLF COURSES**



**AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY**

### ASK DAN

***Is it OK to pour cooking oils and other fats down my kitchen sink if I run hot water down the drain and use the garbage disposal?***

When grease, food scraps, salad dressings and other fatty foods are poured down drains, they eventually cool and harden and can clog the sewer, even when you use hot water and the garbage disposal. The resulting backup can lead to health hazards, home damage, environmental problems and costly repairs. All fats, oils and grease – FOG for short – should be scraped into a container and tightly sealed before being disposed of in the trash.

Once again, failure to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease can result in sewer overflows. Residents who notice a sewer overflow should immediately call (805) 385-8136. And remember "Cease the Grease!"



**CLOGGED SEWER PIPE**

If you have a question to Ask Dan or an idea for an article topic, please email [askdan@oxnard.org](mailto:askdan@oxnard.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS **HANDS-ON WORKSHOP**

**When:** November 19, 2016 • 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Where:** City of Oxnard's HR Activity Room  
300 W. Third St., Oxnard (entrance is on B Street)  
Learn to apply basic design principles for an Ocean Friendly Garden.

**CALL NOW! (805) 385-8136 SPACE IS LIMITED!**

### REMINDER



REFUSE SERVICE **ONE-DAY-DELAY** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>



### THE NEW EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PIPELINE

Future editions of The Pipeline newsletter will be published once a month. The monthly format will allow for more in-depth stories about issues, events and initiative that affect you.

*We look forward to connecting with you!*