

Sewer Summary

Graton CSD is Tertiary

The new Graton wastewater treatment plant upgrade is now completed, has been approved, and in compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board. With innovative new age technology our plant is the first of its kind in the world to pasteurize wastewater using waste heat recovered from a co-generation micro turbine producing electricity for the plant. We are “going green” while maintaining efficiency, utilizing our resources, and providing a safer environment for operators, public, and environment. The treatment plant’s state of the art composting facility is also in full operation producing class “A” compost using static aeration technology. The composting facility will save the district from having to pay expensive hauling fees to remove sludge to off sight landfills. A four foot high concrete wall protects the plant and equipment from flooding. In 2006 the entire treatment plant was about a foot underwater and is what jumpstarted the pathway to the new plant we have today by opening up funding through FEMA, SRF, and prop 50 grants. Though it took years of hard work from the Board, General Manager, and Staff the treatment plant upgrade is a success and will benefit the community. Graton hopes to qualify for future funding to address maintenance and/or replacement of Graton’s collection system infrastructure.

Academy Visits Plant

This year a group of eight students from the Mike Hauser Algebra Academy came out to GCSD for a day field trip. Students worked with the plant operators practicing wastewater math, studying basic chemistry including Ph and dissolved oxygen testing requirements and procedures. The late Santa Rosa Chamber CEO, Mike Hauser had a vision in which even those students for whom English is a second language would be able to graduate from high school and thereby realize opportunities for employment and further education. The academy shows students how algebraic concepts apply to a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math professions and encourage their pursuit of higher education.



Contents

Special Interest Articles

Graton CSD is Tertiary	1
Academy Visits Plant	1
New Technology D.I.	2
What Not to Flush	2

Individual Highlights

Graton Day	2
Abundance of Wildlife	3
Saying Goodbye & Welcoming	
New staff	3
Graton Operator Saves Homes	
In Lake County Fire!	4





New Technology Drawing Interest

Anheuser Bush, Pace Construction for Clearlake drinking water with Guy Schott of the SWRCB Department of Drinking Water visited Graton treatment plant interested in the solid air flotation unit (SAF). The SAF unit is a workhorse, removing solids and keeping the turbidity low for the fuzzy filters downstream in the treatment line. Our NPDES permit mandates that GCSO maintain less

than 2 NTU effluent and the SAF unit helps to achieve and maintain compliance. The SAF performance has drawn interest from other entities in California, and they have come to Graton to see how they can utilize this technology.

A crew from NBC came to the plant as part of an innovative 3 part series on the California drought covering the topics of treated wastewater and energy reuse.

Graton CSD is the first wastewater treatment plant in the world to disinfect by pasteurizing wastewater using a micro turbine that co-generates electricity for the plant.

Graton Day

Once again a good time was had by all! There was excellent music all day, delicious food, and fun activities for kids and family to participate in. Graton Day started off with a wonderful parade by local residents. Graton CSD presented an educational booth providing outreach to the public about their sewer system. Handouts were given on FOG control and backflow prevention devices were demonstrated. Graton CSD's present and former employees helped with the set up and breakdown of the event. Graton CSD provided the straw bales, ADA compliant portable bathroom, and stage for the event. The event was a great success and everyone had a blast. Hope to see everyone next year!

What Not to Flush

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), non-dispersible materials (e.g. diapers & wipes) and solid food waste, blocking sewer pipes are a serious maintenance problem for both the District and private property owners. When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of sewer pipes. The build-up restricts flow and by its self or in combination with other materials can block pipes completely, causing raw sewage to back up into your home or overflow into streets and streams, potentially jeopardizing the public health and the environment. These sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) are a violation of the Clean Water Act. In addition, flushing FOG, non-dispersible materials such as rags, hair, latex, personal hygiene products, cleaning wipes, and solid food waste may inhibit the proper functioning of pump stations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

How You Can Help

Here are some tips for keeping sewers flowing.

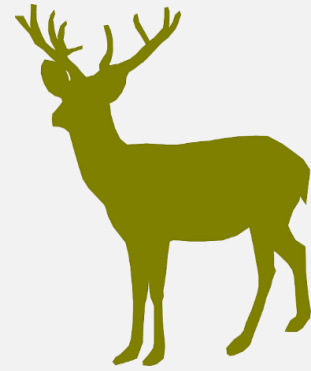
- Never pour grease down sinks or toilets.
- Pour grease and oil into a can and put it in the trash.
- Place food scraps into the trash or compost.
- Do not flush non-dispersible material such as rags, hair, latex, personal hygiene products, cleaning wipes. Dispose of this material in the trash.



Saying Goodbye and Welcoming new Staff

The summer of 2015 was marked by the retirements of Bob Rawson, Graton CSD founder and General Manager as well as Brian Kelly, Chief Plant Operator. Bob Rawson will be remembered for working with the local community to create the Graton district, for his many years of mind-boggling hard work after the floods in 2006, for his innovativeness, foresight, and for taking on the difficult task of securing funding for a new tertiary wastewater treatment facility, releasing the district from the State's Cease and Desist Order. Supervising Operator, Brian Kelly also retired this summer after 10 years of dedicated service to the Graton community. Our thanks go out to Brian for many years of steadfast work, unwavering professionalism, and generosity of knowledge, optimism, and support. Thanks go out to Bob and Brian for their hard work imparting their knowledge by teaching others. Their service to Graton community will never be forgotten.

Following the retirement of Bob Rawson this summer, Graton CSD welcomed in a new interim general manager, Michael Lane who is affiliated with the California Rural Water Association. He brings with him a vast base of knowledge and experience as well as a Grade V Wastewater Certification. Originally from Oklahoma, he has a "can do" attitude that will get the district through these transition times. Hope Sturges joined the operations staff following Brian Kelly's retirement on the heels of accomplishing all her required hours of operator in training (OIT) work-most of which were completed right here in Graton. Hope brings great enthusiasm and a willingness to learn new things taking on nearly every challenge she is presented with. Graton warmly welcomes Mike Lane and Hope Sturges!



Abundance of wildlife

Graton CSD has about 20 acres of irrigation fields, redwood, and oak forest. We boarder Atascadero creek and Department of Fish and Game wildlife preserve. Irrigation of recycled water on land has been providing a sustainable sanctuary for local and migrating wildlife. Our water especially during the drought helped grass, flowers, and edible plants grow. There are deer, bobcat, foxes, coyote, wild boar, and even a bald eagle have been seen here. On our ponds thousands of migrating ducks, geese, heron, and other waterfowl use our facility as a rest stop and some an extended stay. Bullfrogs and turtles swim throughout the holdings ponds nibbling on algae or passing bugs.

"Water quality along with safety is Graton's highest priority not only for the public but for the environment as well."

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Graton Operator saves homes in Lake County's Fire!

Graton CSD Chief Operator, Lindsay Cruickshank responded to a call on September 12th that led him, along with 247 other fire fighters, to the front lines of the devastating Valley Fire in Southern Lake County. Lindsay grew up in Sonoma County and has been working as a volunteer fire fighter for the Graton Fire Department for 6 years. Thanks goes out to Lindsay, the strike team, and the Graton Fire Department for their valuable service to the community and to our neighbors in Lake County.

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Current Resident

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