



Montecito Sanitary District

1042 Monte Cristo Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

A Public Service Agency

PHONE: (805) 969-4200
FAX: (805) 969-9049

September 24, 2020

Dear Montecito Sanitary District Customer,

This letter is to share with you plans that your Sanitary District is taking right now to ensure we can continue to serve you while protecting our environment, workers and precious water resources. Once you have read the enclosed material, we welcome your questions, comments and support.

The Montecito Sanitary District (MSD) has always operated by focusing on our service with professionalism and expertise – we are not good at promoting what we do or patting ourselves on the back. That's partly because what we do every day is not something most like to think about. However, our team of experts are passionate about and dedicated to protecting your health, safety and the local environment.

Over the past decade we have worked to complete a long-held and contemplated Master Plan for our essential facilities. That is why we are writing to you today. Santa Barbara County is now in the process of reviewing and approving our Development Plan, which includes the remaining elements of our Master Plan, and we want to make sure you're aware of what we are proposing and why.

The role of MSD is to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater from homes, businesses and institutions. That calls for a great deal of expertise in environmental protection and monitoring, biosolids management and wastewater treatment. Our certified laboratory and operators ensure the protection of the local environment by continuously monitoring using advanced testing equipment and technology. Without effective treatment of wastewater, our environment would be devastated, particularly our ocean environment.

In Montecito, in addition to our wastewater treatment plant operations and maintenance, we inspect and maintain 78 miles of pipelines along with five pump stations. Our treatment facility continuously meets all state and federal standards as we only release water treated to state requirements into the ocean.

In 2004 the MSD Board, after a series of public hearings, approved a Master Plan providing the facilities needed to serve our community well into the future. We first completed the maintenance building in 2006. Then the testing laboratory was completed in 2010.

That left the Recycled Water Treatment Facilities and an Essential Services Building to be completed. These are the projects currently proposed in the Development Plan, along with solar power. For nearly four years we have been focused on completing the 5,000 square

foot Essential Services Building, and we have actively been working to test the latest in recycled water technology by constructing and operating a pilot facility.

The recycled water project is an important one for the community and environment given that approximately 90% of water use in Montecito is for landscaping. We want to help save potable water for indoor use. We have worked with the Montecito Water District to develop a recycled water project, and they have kindly passed two supportive resolutions. The first proposed recycled water project will serve the entire Santa Barbara Cemetery and will include treatment facilities on our site.

Because recycling water is energy intensive, we are planning to incorporate solar energy on our rooftops where possible. With solar in place on new structures, we plan to have enough solar energy capacity for the Recycled Water Project to serve the full Santa Barbara Cemetery.

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have a long-term impact on how the wastewater industry will operate. Knowing our 18 MSD employees frequently come into contact with untreated sewage, therefore putting themselves and their families at risk, we immediately added modular buildings to provide adequate sanitary facilities including changing rooms, washrooms, shower rooms, designated food preparation facilities and individual data entry/mandatory reporting workstations in areas that are ventilated with proper air exchange and handling. COVID-19 brought this need that we have been unable to fulfill to the forefront.

That leads to the last, yet key, component of our Development Plan, the proposed Essential Services Building. Meeting the rigid environmental, health and safety standards for a wastewater treatment plant requires a highly specialized workforce. To recruit and retain employees in a highly competitive environment, we need habitable offices for essential services. Our proposed Essential Services Building will provide physical protection, proper hygiene, and the ability for workplace distancing. And best of all we have set aside funding for the new building and do not need any additional funds.

To continue providing quality service, ensure the health and safety of our workers and the community and protect our environment, we ask you to support our plans.

To learn how to support our plans, or if you have any questions or comments, please email staff@montsan.org or call us at 805-969-4200.

Thank you. We are honored to serve you and the entire Montecito community.

Sincerely,



Tom Bollay
Board of Directors, President