

The 'other' water topic - Wastewater

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

For most customers, the ability to flush the contents of their toilets 'away' is every bit as important as having safe drinking water come out of the faucet. Nipomo CSD collects, treats, and reclaims over 600,000 gallons of raw wastewater (sewage) every day.

The District operates two wastewater systems – the 'Town System' serving the Olde Towne area and core of Nipomo and the 'Blacklake System' serving Blacklake Village. Town System wastewater is conveyed to the treatment plant located at Southland and South Frontage Roads. The wastewater is treated to meet State discharge standards and then percolated back into our groundwater basin. At Blacklake, the treated water is used to provide a portion of the golf course irrigation needs.

Many homes within the District and across the Mesa are on septic systems and therefore are not connected to a wastewater treatment plant. At these homes, wastewater is conveyed to the homeowner's private septic system and eventually 'leached' into the ground and back to the groundwater table.

The fact that flushing 'away' your wastewater really means the water will, after treatment, end up back in the groundwater should make it clear to all of us that we play an important role in protecting our water supply. Regardless of whether you are connected to one of the District's wastewater systems or on a private septic system, the only thing that should be disposed of in your toilet is human waste – no chemicals, no drugs, no cleaning products. Additionally, do not dump grease and oil down the drain or garbage disposal – these products can clog the collection system and/or septic system and can lead to sewage spills.

To learn more about wastewater do's and don'ts, please visit the District's website at www.ncsd.ca.gov. The District's website also provides information on where to safely dispose of household hazardous waste.

What have YOU DONE to conserve? If you have cut your water use, we want to hear from you! Additionally, if you have converted your landscape to native, drought-tolerant plants, we want to hear from you. You may be featured in upcoming District communications. Contact the District at info@ncsd.ca.gov.

Until next time... Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, info@ncsd.ca.gov

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