

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Ground Broken on New Wastewater Treatment Plant

Peninsula City Reaches Milestone in \$1 Billion Promise to Protect San Francisco Bay

San Mateo, CA — On Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2019 the City of San Mateo welcomed Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, along with Foster City Mayor Sam Hindi to celebrate the groundbreaking of San Mateo's new wastewater treatment plant.

The plant is the largest component of the Clean Water Program, a \$1 billion initiative launched in 2015 to modernize the San Mateo sewer system, a response to a Cease and Desist Order from the State of California mandating a sewer system upgrade to eliminate sewer overflows from entering the San Francisco Bay.

Sewer overflows are diluted wastewater that flow onto our streets, through stormwater drains and eventually into the San Francisco Bay. These occurrences pose significant public and environmental health concerns.

"These infrastructure improvements are vital to the sustainability and future of San Mateo," said Mayor Diane Papan, who emceed the event. "We greatly appreciate the advocacy of our council and the support of our Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, as well as congressional representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, the encouragement from the EPA and our partners in Foster City, who worked on our behalf to support low-cost funding alternatives for the program."

The new plant will replace an aging plant that saw its last major upgrade in the 1970s. Construction on Phase I of the new plant begins in September 2019.

"We are five successful years into the largest upgrade to our sewer facilities," said Public Works Director Brad Underwood. "The Clean Water Program is a necessary and timely endeavor that we must deliver on for the sustainability of our City and the health of the San Francisco Bay."

The new plant will feature a modernized treatment process meeting the program goals to replace the City's aging infrastructure and comply with regulatory requirements to prevent sewer overflows and fully treat flows at the plant. The new plant also aligns with the City's sustainability goals; the administration building will be LEED Silver certified and the plant will produce high-quality effluent that is ready for potential water re-use opportunities. The new plant is set to open in 2024.

About the San Mateo wastewater treatment plant

The plant is jointly owned and funded by the City of San Mateo and the City of Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District. It is managed and operated by the City of San Mateo. The plant serves 170,000 residents with service to five communities in the San Francisco Bay area: City of San Mateo, City of Foster City (through the Estero Municipal Improvement District), portions of the Town of Hillsborough and City of Belmont, Crystal Springs County Sanitation District, and the County of San Mateo. The Clean Water Program is recognized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for taking a lead role in nutrient management of the San Francisco Bay.

About the Clean Water Program

The Clean Water Program is a comprehensive plan to upgrade San Mateo's wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant to provide reliable service for years to come.

The Clean Water Program is intended to meet the following goals: To replace the aging pipes and facilities that have reached or are nearing their lifespan of 50-60 years; To meet current and future regulatory requirements and increase system capacity during heavy rains; To align with long-term sustainability goals. Improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system will protect public health and the health of San Francisco Bay. The higher-quality water will become a source of recycled water that can be reused for landscaping and other uses.

For more information about the Clean Water Program, visit: www.cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org.



Mayor Papan Welcomes Dignitaries --- Left to right, Mayor Diane Papan, Foster City Mayor Sam Hindi, Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo on the site of the new wastewater treatment plant in San Mateo on Sept. 4, 2019. In the background is the existing plant which has not seen a major upgrade since the 1970s.



Officials Unite for Sept. 4 San Mateo Groundbreaking - Left to Right, Foster City's City Manager Jeff Moneda, San Mateo's Public Works Director Brad Underwood, Hillsborough Vice Mayor Alan Royce, Hillsborough Mayor Shawn Christianson, Foster City Mayor Sam Hindi, San Mateo Mayor Diane Papan, Representatives Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier, San Mateo Councilmembers Maureen Freschet, Joe Goethals, Eric Rodriguez and Rick Bonilla, and Jim McGrath, Vice Chair, California State Water Resources Control Board.

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