

# THE ROHNERT PARK REPORT

*Providing essential utility information to Rohnert Park residents and businesses*

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## STRAIGHT FACTS ON SEWERS

SEWER IS WATER THAT LEAVES YOUR HOME, INCLUDING WATER FROM YOUR SINKS, DISHWASHER, WASHING MACHINE, BATH TUBS, SHOWERS, GARBAGE DISPOSAL, AND TOILETS.

The City of Rohnert Park treats residential and commercial sewer water (wastewater) through the Santa Rosa Subregional System Sewer Treatment Plant, which also serves the City of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cotati and other parts of Sonoma County. Wastewater from this system is piped to the Laguna Treatment Plant on Llano Road, a tertiary-level treatment facility that has an average daily sewer flow of 17.5 million gallons per day.

Cities in the Subregional System strive to recycle wastewater whenever possible. In fact, our Subregional System is one of the largest recyclers of water in the world! While 85% of the recycled water is used for agricultural purposes, in Rohnert Park the primary recipients of reclaimed water include city parks, large commercial sites (e.g., State Farm, *Press Democrat*) and school district fields. In addition, new housing developments are being equipped with recycled water in the front yards.

An owner of a commercial or retail site who wishes to reduce irrigation costs may contact City of Rohnert Park staff members to determine whether the property is near a recycled water pipeline. If so, the property owner is encouraged to install a connection to the recycled water line, and future water bills will reflect a decrease in the charge for potable water. Call the City Engineer's office at (707) 588-2251 for details.

## WHY ARE SEWER RATES RISING, AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

On April 1, 2007, sewer rates will increase 15%. Sewer bills pay for the City of Rohnert Park's expenses to treat water at the Laguna Treatment Plant. In addition, Rohnert Park is involved with the Geysers Project, which pumps 11 million gallons of wastewater daily from the Laguna Treatment Plant to the Geysers steam-fields. The City of Rohnert Park is responsible for one-fifth of the project's \$187 million in debt, and increased sewer rates reflect this responsibility.



*Properties located near a city park, school, new housing development or large commercial site are good candidates to use recycled water for irrigation. Call City Engineer's office at (707) 588-2251 for details.*



*Leaky toilets can be a major sewer expense. A badly leaking toilet can waste as much as 500 gallons of water every day. A free consultant can come to your home and show you how to reduce your water and sewer charges. Call (707) 547-1910 for details.*

Your household's water expenses and sewer expenses are closely intertwined. *If you conserve water and install water-saving devices, you'll actually save money twice* – once on your water bill, because you'll use less water; and secondly on your sewer bill, because less water will go down your drains.

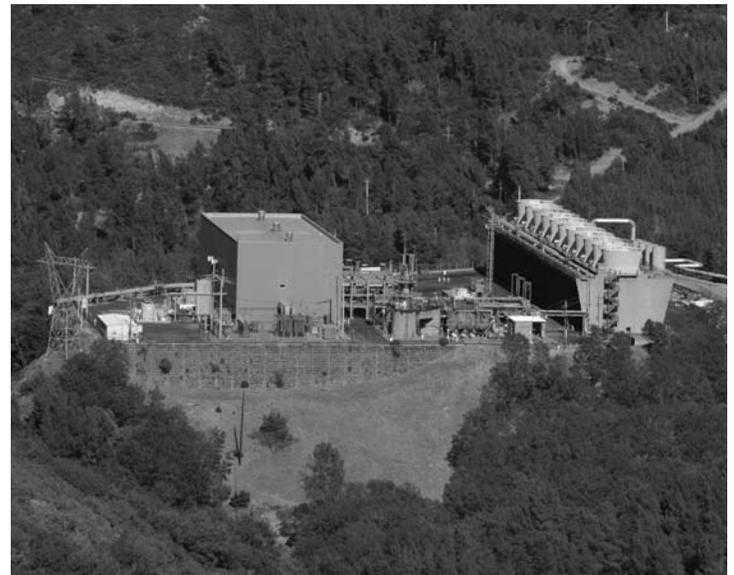
The Sonoma County Water Agency offers a *free program* called the "Water Smart Home Program." A consultant will come to your home, at no charge, and conduct an inside-outside evaluation of your property. The consultant will identify potential leaks, diagnose existing leaks, and provide alternatives to help you avoid wasting water. *To schedule a free appointment to reduce your water and sewer bill -- call (707) 547-1910.*

In addition, the City of Rohnert Park also offers a variety of free water-saving devices and literature to help you lower your water and sewer costs: low-flow shower heads, toilet tabs to detect leaks, bathroom faucet aerators, hose nozzles, and literature on gardening, landscaping and plumbing. You may pick these items up at the City's Finance Department Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m.

**WATCH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE IDEAS ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION TIPS!**



*The City of Rohnert Park offers a variety of free water-saving devices, such as faucet aerators. You can pick up water-saving devices and literature at the Rohnert Park Finance Department weekdays from 8 a.m. – noon and 1–5 p.m.*



*The Geysers Project generates enough electricity for 85,000 households in Sonoma and other North Bay counties. Your sewer bill helps pay for the City of Rohnert Park's share of this project.*

City of Rohnert Park Utility Department  
6800 Hunter Drive #B, PO Box 1489  
Rohnert Park, CA 94927

707-585-6750  
Monday–Friday  
8 am–noon, 1–5 pm

