



# South Bayside System Authority

Providing wastewater services to residents and businesses in Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, and West Bay Sanitary District

**SBSA BULLETIN**

**OCTOBER 2007**

## SBSA Commission

**Jeff Ira** Chair  
Redwood City Council Member  
**Thomas J. Davids** Vice Chair  
San Carlos Council Member  
**Ronald W. Shepherd** Secretary  
West Bay Sanitary District  
Board Member  
**Phillip E. Mathewson**  
Belmont Council Member

## SBSA Offices

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## SBSA Staff

**Daniel T. Child**  
Manager  
**Robert Donaldson**  
Operations Manager  
**Kenneth Kaufman**  
Technical Services Manager  
**V. Gary Storms**  
Maintenance Manager  
**Linda Bruemmer**  
Support Services Manager

**BOB GRASSILLI NEW SBSA  
COMMISSIONER**

**See Details Inside.**

## *Manager's Corner*

**By Daniel Child, SBSA Manager**



**O**ur staff and consultants are continuing to make progress in preparing a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in order to modernize infrastructure and facilities, a step necessary to address the most critical needs of our aging wastewater system and treatment facilities.

It is our goal to have a complete plan for Commission approval in early 2008, which would allow several months for the member agencies to take their respective budgetary actions to finance the CIP. The five-year CIP should begin in July, 2008.

A next step is for a financial consulting firm to develop a financial plan to support the short and long term needs of the SBSA's CIP. The Commission at its Oct. 11 meeting approved a contract with Bartle Wells Associates for this study. At present, no funding mechanism has been developed to cover the costs of the CIP. The impact of the new CIP to the overall SBSA budget will be significant and will be much larger than any program undertaken by SBSA in the past. Current funding mechanisms will fall dramatically short of providing funds necessary to support this program.

SBSA's current CIP is a simple year-to-year plan based on immediate needs, focusing on projects deemed absolutely critical for short-term ongoing operation of the facilities or required by emergency situations. This approach has not addressed the capital investment required to maintain SBSA's aging infrastructure on a long-term basis. A draft of the CIP program is nearing completion.

Bartle Wells will evaluate all known alternatives to facilitate the implementation of the CIP. Methods such as pay-as-you-go, low interest state revolving fund loans, local and national bank loans, revenue bonds, and other innovative borrowing scenarios will be evaluated for the best overall financial package to meet the project costs and cash flow needs. We also will look at the impact the CIP implementation will have on ongoing O&M costs.

Bartle Wells will evaluate the overall needs of the agency, recommend the best funding mechanisms, and recommend rate adjustments and timing as required to meet the needs of SBSA's capital,

## Manager's Corner

operations, and maintenance budgets.

I will repeat what I concluded with in July. We are working very hard to be prepared to present to the Commission a blueprint for repairing and updating our facilities and infrastructure, along with a funding mechanism to insure we have a properly operating and functional facility, in early 2008. I will continue to do my best to keep you posted as we progress.

## Proposal for Accounting Services

The SBSA Commission has authorized advertising for statement of qualification (SOQ) submittals for professional accounting services from firms with experience in public sector and Enterprise Fund accounting, to be followed with interviews and selection of an accounting firm to provide services.

**SBSA is seeking qualifications from firms that have experience dealing with water and wastewater districts and authorities.**

SBSA currently utilizes accounting services from the City of Redwood City to support the onsite payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable functions. The city utilizes a mainframe computer system that requires high levels of Information Technology personnel time to create new reports to make minor changes to the basic accounting needs of SBSA, according to Manager Dan Child.

"The reporting function of the city's computers is very cumbersome and does not provide data that is user friendly for our needs," Child added.

The cost for the city services to SBSA exceeds \$100,000 annually when charges for computer technician time are accounted for along with the cost of the accounting services. SBSA staff says it is not cost effective

to bring the ability to perform the accounting services in-house.

SBSA is seeking qualifications from firms that have experience dealing with water and wastewater districts and authorities for supporting accounting services. After evaluating, SBBA staff could recommend one of the firms or to remain with Redwood City.

## Sewers and Storm Drains Crucial Differences

(Courtesy County of San Mateo)

- A sanitary sewer system collects wastewater from homes and businesses. The sewage travels to a wastewater treatment plant, where it undergoes treatment before it is discharged into the environment (in case of SBSA, into San Francisco Bay).
- A storm drain system (*example pictured to the right*) collects rain run-off from streets, parking lots, and roofs. The water typically flows straight into the Bay, creek, river or ocean without any treatment.
- During a storm, rainwater and groundwater enter sewer systems through cracks in pipes or through illegal connections of downspouts or yard-drains, adding flow and overloading the sewer system. Sewers may then overflow into streets, where sewage flows into the storm drain system and straight into the environment without undergoing treatment.
- Addition of rainwater or groundwater into sewers can lead to sewage treatment plants becoming overwhelmed with three times or more of the normal flow which can exceed the plant's sewage treatment capacity.
- Neither sewer systems nor storm drains are designed to handle oil, grease or garbage. All may clog sewers and storm drains and lead to overflows.



## Bob Grassilli Named San Carlos' Representative to SBSA Commission

**B**ob Grassilli has replaced Tom Davids as San Carlos' representative on the SBSA Commission.

The four jurisdictions that own SBSA—the cities of Belmont, Redwood City, and San Carlos, along with the West Bay Sanitary District – each appoint a member of their council or board to represent the jurisdiction on the SBSA Commission.

Davids is not seeking re-election to the San Carlos City Council in November. Grassilli was elected to the San Carlos City Council in November, 2005. Previously, he served on the San Carlos Planning Commission from 1994 to 2000, and volunteered on the Railroad Land Use Committee.



Tom Davids

He started his professional career in 1970 with Arthur Andersen, a large certified public accounting firm and in 1977 went to work for Sunstream Homes, where he spent 27 years, the last 18 as chief financial officer.

Grassilli earned his Master's of Business Administration in Finance from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in business from the University of San Francisco. He is a graduate of Serra High School in San Mateo, which has also produced sports greats Lynn Swann, Barry Bonds, and Tom Brady.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Samaritan House as well as the Carl and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation. He was born in San Francisco and moved to the Peninsula at age four. He has lived in San Carlos since 1983. He enjoys golf and travel, as well as volunteering for various charities on the Peninsula, including the San Carlos Youth Center Foundation.

SBSA will have another new commissioner after the November election. This is because Phillip Mathewson is not seeking re-election to the Belmont City Council.

SBSA Commissioner Ronald W. Shepherd, representing the West Bay Sanitary District, is also up for re-election; however he and two other incumbents have no opposition so there will not be an election in the West Bay Sanitary District. Shepherd is deemed re-elected to that board.



Phillip Mathewson



Bob Grassilli



Ron Shepherd

## SBSA Unveils New Website at [www.sbsa.org](http://www.sbsa.org)

**SBSA**, as announced in our last newsletter, is proud to unveil its first ever website at [www.sbsa.org](http://www.sbsa.org). The website contains information in these categories:

- Commission
- Staff
- Facilities
- Employment
- Kids Page
- More Information
- Links

## Work Helps Keep SBSA Pond Fresh

The popular SBSA “pond” that greets visitors to the plant at 1400 Radio Road, Redwood City, has been reenergized in the wake of Redwood City’s recycled water program.

Technically called a landscape impoundment, the pond was created in 1998 on the west side of the treatment plant as part of an agreement with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board when it renewed SBSA’s NPDES permit. The Board asked SBSA to make available a portion of the plant’s treated effluent as a reusable resource rather than putting it all in San Francisco Bay.

Starting in 1998, the pond was developed as a single body of water and was filled with tertiary treated water produced by the First Step Recycled Water Program.

“Over the years this body of water has proven to be a successful addition to the community by providing pleasing aesthetics and habitat for waterfowl that is enjoyed by all,” noted SBSA Manager Dan Child.

Prior to this, the land was nothing more than a muddy four-wheeler attraction in the wet season and the dry season produced a dustbowl that reeked havoc with the workers on the plant site and required substantial work to keep the plant facilities clean of dust.

“The dust proved detrimental to the treatment of the plant’s equipment, especially the electrical system and instrumental devices,” recalled Maintenance Manager V. Gary Storms.

Over the years the pond was kept fresh by an almost continual flow of water to replace water lost by evaporation and by allowing a certain amount to overflow back to the treatment facility. Peak water flow to the pond in the hot season was approximately 100,000 gallons per day.

With the advent of Redwood City’s recycled water program, including new facilities at SBSA, the City and SBSA have worked together on how best to maintain the pond, especially in the wake of

Before the pond, the land was nothing more than a muddy four-wheeler attraction in the wet season, and the dry season produced a dustbowl that reeked havoc with the workers.

the recycled water design creating a causeway across the SBSA pond, which essentially split it into two bodies of water.

Cross drain pipes were put into the causeway to allow mixing of the water from one pond to the other, but this proved ineffective in keeping the water fresh in the newly created westerly pond.

As a result, Redwood City staff requested SBSA to design a water supply system to the ponds that would be economical, effective and provide for possible higher recycled water flow requirements. The necessary piping system to feed water from the Redwood City recycled water

facility to the SBSA ponds was designed and tested utilizing temporary piping. The tests proved successful in providing an effective water supply system.

The City is reimbursing SBSA \$55,000 for the cost of the system to get to the westerly portion of the pond, and SBSA is adding \$12,000 for costs associated with the improved portions of the feed system.

Excavation and backfilling for the project was to be provided by Andreini Brothers, who were already working on-site for SBSA on an unrelated project.

“The end result will continuation of the ponds as a source for wildlife while reducing flow into San Francisco Bay and utilizing even more of the new recycled water program,” Child said.

