CAC Est. 1978 Citizens Advisory Committee
Joint Water Pollution Control Plant

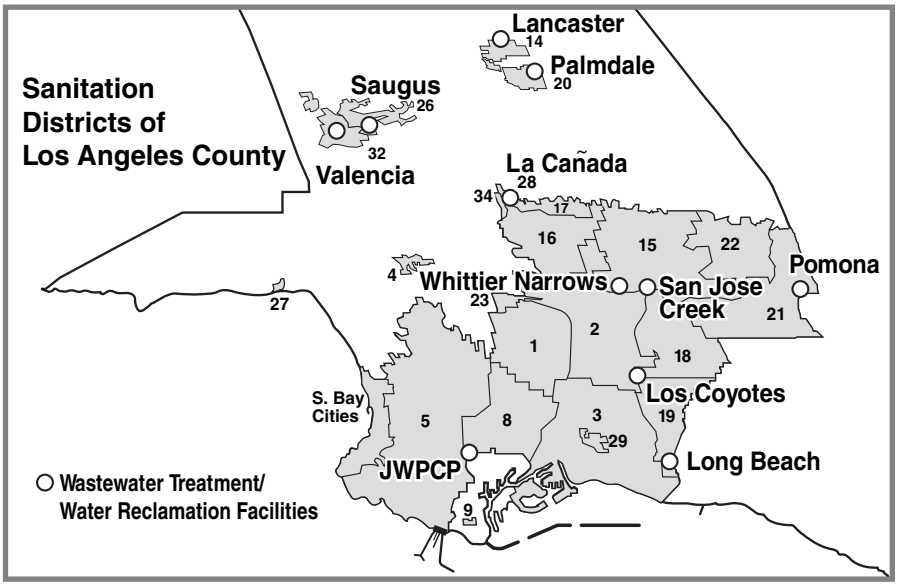
Newsletter

August 2004

The Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) is the wastewater treatment plant located on both sides of Figueroa Street, south of Sepulveda and north of Lomita. This newsletter will update you about the operations at the JWPCP since the last newsletter in September 2001.

WHO OPERATES THE JWPCP?

The JWPCP is owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts). The Sanitation Districts are a confederation of 25 independent special sanitation districts serving the sewage treatment, water reclamation and solid waste management needs of approximately 5.1 million people in Los Angeles County.



The Sanitation Districts operate and maintain approximately 1400 miles of main trunk sewers and 11 wastewater treatment plants that convey and treat approximately 510 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater. Over 190 mgd of this is treated to a high degree and made available for reuse in our dry Southern California area. The JWPCP is the largest of the Sanitation Districts' wastewater treatment plants. It presently treats approximately 320 mgd (see map above).

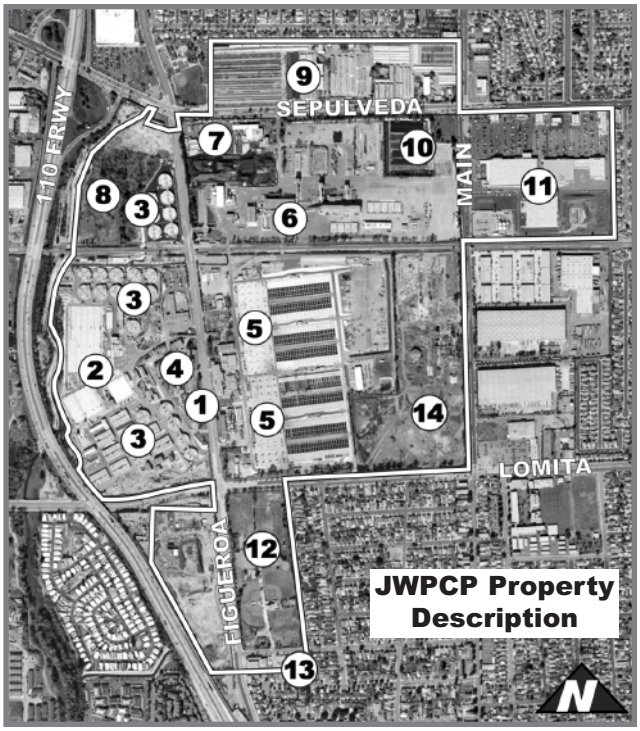
The Sanitation Districts also operate a comprehensive solid waste management system serving the needs of a large portion of Los Angeles County. For more information on the Sanitation Districts' wastewater and solid waste management systems, visit our web site at www.lacsd.org.

JWPCP PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The JWPCP property covers over 380 acres and is shown on the photo, right. Besides property used for wastewater treatment purposes (areas 1-6), the JWPCP has various buffer areas between its operational areas and surrounding residential neighbors (areas 8-14). The buffer areas include nursery operations on property leased to Color Spot and International Plant Growers, the Wilmington Jaycees Athletic Complex, the Wilmington Boys and Girls Club, a fresh water marsh area maintained in its natural state, the former Fletcher Oil property and the Home Depot commercial complex. Area 7 indicates the property leased to Kellogg Supply Inc., an independent operation utilizing biosolids produced at the plant to produce soil amendment products for resale.

Legend for photo below:

1. *Administrative office*
2. *Primary treatment*
3. *Solids digestion*
4. *Power generation*
5. *Secondary treatment*
6. *Solids dewatering facilities*
7. *Kellogg Supply Inc.*
8. *Fresh water marsh area*
9. *Color Spot Nursery*
10. *International Plant Growers Nursery*
11. *Home Depot Commercial Complex*
12. *Wilmington Jaycees Athletic Complex*
13. *Wilmington Boys and Girls Club*
14. *Former Fletcher Oil Porperty*



The JWPCP itself is divided into four functional areas: Primary Treatment, where physical treatment of raw wastewater takes place and solids removed from the treatment processes are biologically treated in digesters; Secondary Treatment, where the wastewater leaving primary treatment receives further biological treatment; Solids Processing, where the treated solids from the digesters are dewatered; and Power Generation, which generates the electrical requirements for JWPCP using, as fuel, a waste gas produced on-site in the solids digestion process. The treated wastewater is then disinfected and sent to the ocean through an ocean outfall system that extends two miles off shore from White Point on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

ODOR CONTROL AT JWPCP

The Sanitation Districts are committed to make every effort to reduce any odors from the JWPCP to an insignificant level. Since 1978, over $100 million has been spent to reduce odors from the JWPCP. Approximately $40 million of this has been spent in the past three years, since the last newsletter. Odors from the JWPCP originate from three sources: the sewers, the plant operations, and Kellogg Supply Inc.

SEWERS

Odors can begin in the collection system, usually in the form of hydrogen sulfide gas (H_2S) that forms the rotten egg odor people associate with sewage. The Sanitation Districts have dealt with this by injecting chemicals into the flowing sewage to prevent or control the formation of H_2S. At some locations, the changing wastewater levels in the sewers cause gases to escape through the manholes. Activated carbon canisters installed into the manholes treat the escaping gases. In some sewers, the gases are evacuated and sent to permanent odor scrubbing stations for treatment.

PLANT OPERATIONS

Several projects to control odors from treatment plant operations have been completed during the past three years. The following summarizes those projects.

The primary sedimentation tanks (area #2) were recently fitted with new tight-sealing covers to prevent the escape of odorous air. A new odor scrubbing system for the primary tanks is being designed and should be completed by early 2006. The combination of the new covers and the odor scrubber system should effectively eliminate odors from the primary treatment part of the plant.

Two solids digestion systems have existed at the JWPCP: old rectangular digesters built in the 1950's and 60's, and the newer circular digesters built since the 1970's (area #9). The rectangular digesters were at the end of their service life and became increasingly difficult to keep adequately sealed to prevent the escape of odors. Recent completion of seven new circular digesters near the corner of Sepulveda and Figueroa have allowed the Sanitation Districts to take all of the rectangular digesters out of service, thereby removing this odor source to the south of the plant.

Prior to entering the primary sedimentation tanks, wastewater passes through grit chambers to remove heavy items called grit (rocks, sand, etc.). In the past, the odorous grit was put into trailers where the water was removed and the grit was sent to a landfill. To prevent odors from this grit removal process, the Sanitation Districts have built a grit and screenings processing building with built-in odor control scrubbers. All grit handling and dewatering is done in this building.

Even with this great investment in odor control systems at the JWPCP, resulting from award winning odor control research conducted by the Sanitation Districts, further additions in odor control are in progress. Three odor control projects are underway at the plant to further reduce any odor impacts on the community.

The first project is an odor scrubbing system necessary to ventilate and treat the air removed from under the new primary treatment tank covers. This will be completed in early 2006. The second project, The Central Odor Project, will replace many of the older, small odor scrubbers in the primary treatment section of the plant with one large central odor scrubbing system. This project should be completed by early 2005.

Tremendous progress has taken place during the past three years on projects to significantly reduce and hopefully eliminate odors from the wastewater solids processing area of the plant (area #6). Structures have been built to house biofilters to treat the air from these facilities. Construction is currently under way to fill these structures with the filter media necessary to treat the air and to build modifications to the solids processing facilities to more effectively remove all of the odorous air for treatment. This project should be completed by Summer 2005.

After completion of these three projects, odor impacts on the community should be dramatically reduced, if not eliminated. The Sanitation Districts are currently removing and treating 130,000 cubic feet of air every minute (cfm) from the plant process tanks. When these projects are completed, the Sanitation Districts will

have spent more than $125 million on odor control, since 1978, and will be removing and treating about 415,000 cfm of odorous air.

KELLOGG SUPPLY INC.

Kellogg Supply Inc. (area #7), an independent operation utilizing biosolids produced at the plant to produce soil amendment products for resale, has been leasing property at the northwest corner of the JWPCP since the 1920's. Biosolids deliveries to Kellogg Supply will end this fall and the company will continue to bag their product until November. Kellogg Supply will cease operations at the JWPCP by December 31, 2004. They will continue to lease approximately five acres for their administration building and a storage building to hold bagged product.

SANITATION DISTRICTS' COMMITMENT

The Sanitation Districts are committed to make every effort to reduce any odors from the JWPCP to an insignificant level. With the help of the JWPCP Citizens Advisory Committee, which has been working with the Sanitation Districts since 1978 to help the JWPCP to be a better neighbor, the Sanitation Districts will continue to make modifications and changes to the plant until that goal is achieved. If you experience odors coming from the treatment plant, please call us to report them. Your input concerning frequency of odors, time of day, and type of odor is not only invaluable, it is critical to Sanitation Districts' staff in solving the odor problem. **The 24-hour telephone number is (310) 830-2401 and is staffed night and day. Please call as soon as you detect an odor.** When you call, plant personnel will be sent to your home to help in identifying the odor. If it is coming from the treatment plant, we will make every effort to eliminate the source of the odor.

FLETCHER OIL REFINERY COMPANY (FORCO) PROPERTY

The Sanitation Districts purchased the FORCO property next to the JWPCP (area #14) as a logical addition for future operations. The property will not be used for solids processing, composting, or any solid waste management facilities. The Sanitation Districts will maintain our commitment to odor control for any facilities that may be built on the property.

Street Environmental Corp. was hired to demolish and remove the structures on the property and clean the soil and groundwater below the former refinery. To date, all of the demolition has been completed and the shallow soils (0-16 feet down) have been cleaned. The deep soil and groundwater cleaning has begun and 37 vapor extraction wells have been installed. Air will be pumped through the groundwater and deep soils and the hydrocarbon vapors will be removed. This process should take approximately three years to complete.

The Sanitation Districts have made some improvements to the FORCO property to make it more aesthetically pleasing to the community. Now that Street Environmental has completed the demolition work, the Sanitation Districts have begun a project to landscape the perimeter to match the existing JWPCP landscaping. The Sanitation Districts will continue our effort to control any dust generated from the property.

MARSHLAND MITIGATION PROGRAM

The Marshland Mitigation Program provides for the maintenance and enhancement of the 17.5-acre freshwater marsh area located on the Sanitation Districts' property at the corner of Sepulveda Blvd. and Figueroa Street. The Sanitation Districts has hired Wetlands Research Associates to help with the design of the mitigation program. The goal of the Marshland Mitigation Program is to improve water flow through the marshland, improve the vegetation by removing non-native plants and planting native varieties, and provide viewing and educational opportunities.

JWPCP NEIGHBORS TOUR

In order to familiarize you with our operations, the Sanitation Districts wish to invite you to attend a tour of the JWPCP. **The tour will be held on Sunday, , 2004, at 11:00 a.m.** The tour will last approximately 1½ hours. Coffee, donuts, and punch will be served prior to the tour. In order to allow us to prepare for the tour, **please RSVP by calling Pilar Burgos at (562) 699-7411, extension 2300 by Wednesday, ,2004.** We are looking forward to seeing you at the tour.

GIVE US A CALL

We are committed to being a good neighbor but we can't do it without your help. If you have any comments or questions about the operations at the JWPCP or about the Sanitation Districts, do not hesitate to call or e-mail Ken Rademacher, JWPCP Manager, at (310) 830-2400, extension 5245 (krademacher@lacsd.org), or Don Avila, Assistant Information Officer, at (562) 699-7411, extension 2304 (davila@lacsd.org). You can also obtain additional information by going to our web site at www.lacsd.org.