

For Immediate Release
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Residents Sought for Community Advisory Group *Group will help guide water treatment plant's upgrades*

Residents and business owners in San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and Monte Sereno are invited to apply to become a member of a newly formed Community Advisory Group for a Master Plan project at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant.

One of the most advanced wastewater treatment facilities on the West Coast, the Plant will undergo a \$1 billion dollar construction program over the next 10 to 15 years to rehabilitate or replace aging infrastructure, introduce more energy-efficient technology, respond to increasingly strict environmental regulations, meet the demands of a growing population and economy, and select best options for using the Plant's 1,700 acres of surrounding bufferlands and 850-acre former salt pond.

"The Plant is over 50 years old now, and it's the right time to consider the implementation of new and greener technologies to ensure it not only continues to operate efficiently and at the lowest possible cost, but also in a manner that is as protective of the environment as possible," commented Director John Stufflebean of San José's Environmental Services Department, which operates the Plant on behalf of eight cities and associated sanitary districts in the South Bay.

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A three-year technical and community-based master planning process has been launched to help guide this massive amount of engineering and construction. The Community Advisory Group, which will be comprised of 18 – 20 representatives from the Plant’s service area, will assist in reviewing and providing their perspective on various alternative proposals in advance of community meetings and ultimately decisions by the San José City Council.

Several hundred residents a month are being taken through the Plant on Saturday bus tours to see first-hand how it operates and learn about its key challenges and opportunities. Among those expected to be addressed by technical and community participants in the master planning process are:

- Continue the Plant’s excellence in performing its #1 job of protecting public health and water quality in San Francisco Bay
- Ensure the Plant’s continued role in supporting a thriving local economy
- Incorporate technologies that reflect greener community values
- Develop strategies for replacing or repairing aging infrastructure
- Determine whether complementary uses can be developed on the Plant’s 2,600 acres of bufferlands and pond.

Interested individuals can find more information and an application at www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/default.asp or by contacting Paul Prange at (408) 975-2591. Applications are due **Friday, June 20, 2008**.

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