

OC San Connection

community newsletter



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The last large structural steel beam is being installed.

Topping off the Headquarters

Construction of OC San's new administrative Headquarters Building in Fountain Valley is scheduled to be completed by late 2023. And the project recently reached a milestone — the placement of the final large structural steel beam.

A “topping off” is a common tradition in construction to commemorate the completion of a building's structure, or the placement of the final steel beam. Employees were invited to sign this topping off beam and the hoisting of it for installation made for some great photos and video posted to social media.

The new 3-story Headquarters Building will centrally locate approximately 300 administrative staff that are currently dispersed at Plant No.1 in Fountain Valley in aging buildings and temporary trailers that need repairs. The Headquarters will be a mix of mass timber combined with exposed steel-brace framing.

Mass timber is an engineered wood product made of compressed layers of wood. It is

designed to have strength ratings similar to concrete and steel but at a lighter weight. Mass timber is an eco-friendly product with a relatively low manufacturing carbon footprint, compared to concrete and steel materials which emit high levels of carbon into the atmosphere. Beams used for the Headquarters Building are comprised of individual 2-inch x 3-inch wood members that are glued and pressed together. The longest beam used in the main lobby of the new building measures 12-1/4 inch wide x 49-1/2 inch deep and 73 feet long.

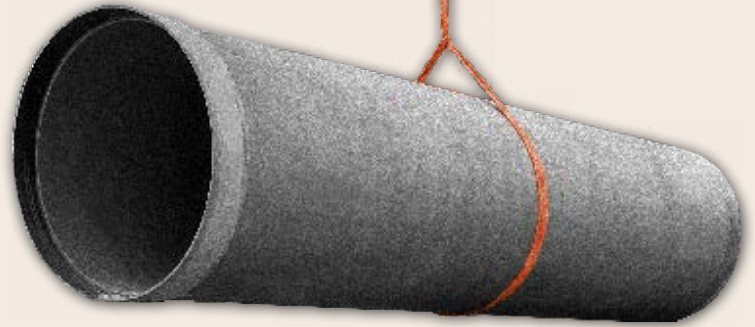
A future milestone to look forward to in 2023 will be for the pedestrian bridge that will span across Ellis Avenue from the Headquarters Building to the treatment plant, providing safe access for staff and visiting tour groups to get across without impacting traffic flow on Ellis Avenue.

Visit www.ocsan.gov/headquarters to learn more about this project.

WRAPPING UP WESTMINSTER

Great news Seal Beach and Westminster, the Westminster Blvd. Sewer project is wrapping up construction and is still on schedule to be off the streets later this year. The project, which began construction in April 2020, and replaced two side-by-side regional pipelines along a 3-mile stretch of Westminster Boulevard between Seal Beach Boulevard and Rancho Road, west of Springdale Street. Each new pipeline is 36-inches in diameter.

One last major milestone near completion includes the rehabilitation of two siphons at the intersection of Westminster Boulevard and Rancho Road/Hammon Place in the City of Westminster. Siphons are pipelines that dip under an obstruction, in this case, the Barber City Channel, which runs along Rancho Road. Earlier in October, the two siphons were rehabilitated using the cured-in-place pipe method. Wastewater flows were first routed out of the siphons with the use of temporary bypass piping and pumps. A liner was then inserted into the siphon and cured for over 6 hours. After fully cured, the liner now acts as the pipeline, resulting in a new siphon, or a new pipeline within the old pipeline. Supporting structures to connect to the rehabilitated pipes will complete the work, followed by removal of the temporary bypass piping and restoration work.



The project continues to button up the streets, putting back medians, irrigation, landscaping and paving where construction activity took place. For more information on the project visit www.ocsan.gov/westminster.

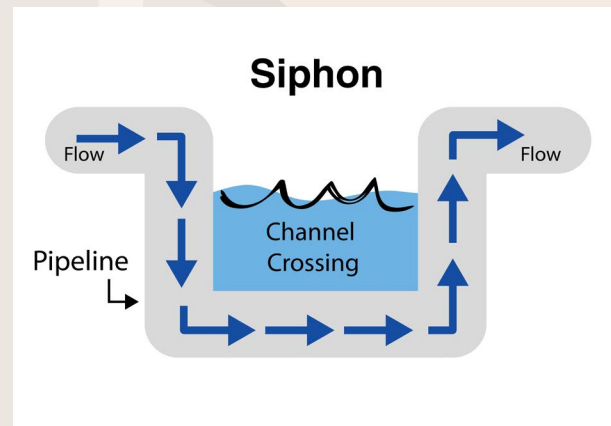
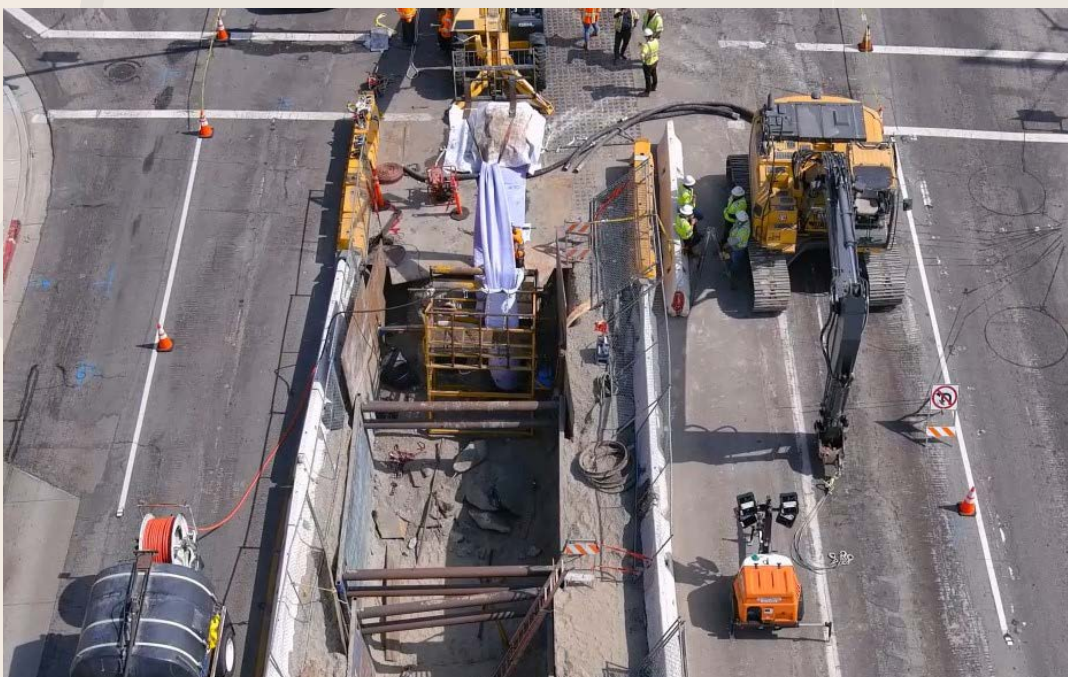


Illustration of a siphon.



Aerial view of the siphon rehabilitation work at the intersection of Westminster Boulevard and Hammon Place.

WHAT Makes US SPECIAL?

OC San is a Special District- a form of local government created by a local community to meet a special need. Often cities and counties cannot provide all the services that their citizens desire. Can you imagine a wastewater treatment plant in each city? Therefore, a Special District is formed to administer these services their cities and counties lack.

In California alone, there are over 2,000 special districts, according to the California Special Districts Association. All provide essential services – water, energy, fire, public safety, treatment of wastewater, garbage removal, and more.

Since Special Districts are a form of local government, voters and ratepayers hold the specific districts directly accountable. This is accomplished through an elected board, regulations, and financial accountability. OC San is governed by a **25-member Board of Directors** appointed from 20 cities, two sanitary districts, two water districts and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

DID YOU KNOW...

OC San generated about 540 tons per day or about 200,000 tons per year of biosolids. Biosolids are treated, safe, nutrient rich, organic material derived from the wastewater treatment process. It is used for soil amendments for farms and compost facilities that create amendments for nurseries, agriculture, or home gardens.

DID YOU KNOW...

OC San generates an average of 7.1 million kilowatt hours of energy per month from burning natural gas and methane gas which is a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process. The savings from OC San generated electricity is about \$6.2 million per year in power that would otherwise be purchased from Southern California Edison. And by creating our own energy, we also pull less from the system thus reducing the strain on the system.



Central Generation facility at Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley.

Cool It With the FOG

It's fall and that means the holidays are around the corner. The holidays usually involve gatherings which means baking and cooking and that means you are left with FOG (Fats, Oil, and Grease). At a time when you are busy entertaining the last thing you want to do is deal with plumbing issues, so make sure you dispose of the FOG the right way.

FOG should never be poured down the drain. Even though FOG is discarded down the drain as a liquid, when it cools, it can quickly solidify and clump up forming a clog which can cause sewage backups. Some of you may be asking, can't I just use hot water when pouring FOG down the drain? Short answer: No. This will only move the FOG further down the line. Eventually the water will cool and the FOG will solidify and coat the pipes. This could cause a sewer back up in your home or your neighborhood streets which can be harmful to our health and the environment.

When sewer pipes back up at a home, the homeowner is responsible for the clean-up. Avoid costly repairs by keeping the FOG out of the pipes by following these simple steps:

- Use an empty metal can to pour fats, oil and grease into it.
- Let it cool in the can before throwing away in the trash.
- Use paper towels to wipe dishes and greasy pans before washing and toss those in the trash.

Keep your holidays as stress free as possible, cool the FOG and toss it.



“Water Break” Has a New Meaning

We've all heard that when it rains, we should turn off our sprinklers. But that's not the only thing we can do. Heavy rain saturates the ground and water can infiltrate the sewer system; this can result in the system having to process more water than normal in a short amount of time and run the risk of a sewer spill. To help reduce the impact, you can help by deferring water-using chores until after the storm has passed. If it appears the storm isn't letting up, then wait until after 6 p.m. when less people are using the system to run the dishwasher, do laundry, and any other water-based activities. A small change by each of us can lead to positive impacts, so remember, every little bit counts.

Give us a look...



Still wondering what OC San does and what it takes to make it happen? Take a virtual tour of our plant to get a behind the scenes look at how we treat approximately 180 million gallons of wastewater a day to protect public health and the environment. Sign up at www.ocsan.gov/tours.

Follow us on social media @OCSanDistrict



For general information, email forinformation@ocsan.gov. For OC San construction projects, reach your community liaisons at ConstructionHotline@ocsan.gov or call 714.378.2965.

More at www.ocsan.gov.

