

Dublin San Ramon Services District

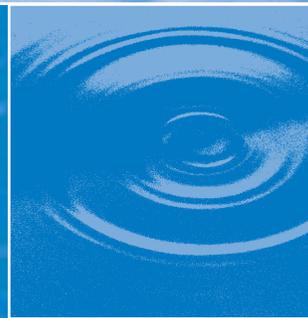
Valley Community
Services District

Parks Community
Service District

1953-2003

THE FIRST 50 YEARS

The First
50 Years





This year marks the District's 50th anniversary. We are proud of our service here in the Valley and want to thank our customers for their support and their part in our success.

Fifty years ago, water and wastewater were operated as two separate services. Today and in the future, all things wet will be more integrated: water, wastewater, recycled water, and flood control will be managed in a coordinated manner for the benefit of all our customers and residents.

Tomorrow's challenges will be more complicated and the solutions of yesteryear will give way to more complex science, technology, engineering, management and social/consumer changes, but I am confident the District is well positioned with strong leadership, well-trained staff, and strong financing to succeed.

We are continuously looking ahead, forging partnerships, and listening to the people we serve. We are committed to doing what's right today, as well as what is right for our children's children. For 50 years, we've provided our customers with reliable service and we plan to do so for another 50 years and beyond.

Sincerely,

Bert Michalczyk

DSRSD: The First 50 Years

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In the Beginning. . .

The fifties were a time of conservative politics, economic prosperity, and social conformity. "Neat and trim" and "proper and prim" were in. Bible sales, construction, and babies boomed once again. The Cold War race for annihilating weapons was underway. Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed knowledge of Communists in the State Department. The Kefauver Committee (headed by Democratic Senator Estes Kefauver from Tennessee) exposed a widespread and powerful underworld of organized crime. And North Korea invaded South Korea.

In California, the legislature passed the Community Services Act (61000), establishing multipurpose, special districts that combine all the government functions necessary for a community. Formed in unincorporated territory in one or more counties, special districts essentially provide services that would otherwise be provided by cities. The Act enabled the formation of the Parks Community Service District (PCSD), the general-purpose government for the area before the Cities of Dublin and San Ramon existed.

On April 17, 1953, the Board of Directors of the Parks Community Service District held their first meeting in the home of one of the Directors. The District area was 2,175 acres. For the first seven years the District was relatively inactive.



Photo courtesy of Dublin Historical Preservation Association

Aerial view of Dublin Boulevard, looking east, as it appeared in the 1950s. Highway 50, also known as the Lincoln Highway, merges in from the right.

THE EARLY YEARS: 1953 - 1959

Timeline:

1953

1954

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959

1953: The California legislature passed the Community Services Act enabling the formation of the Parks Community Service District (PCSD).

April 17, 1953: The Board of Directors of the Parks Community Service District held their first meeting.

1954: A typewriter was the first piece of equipment purchased out of capital outlay funds.

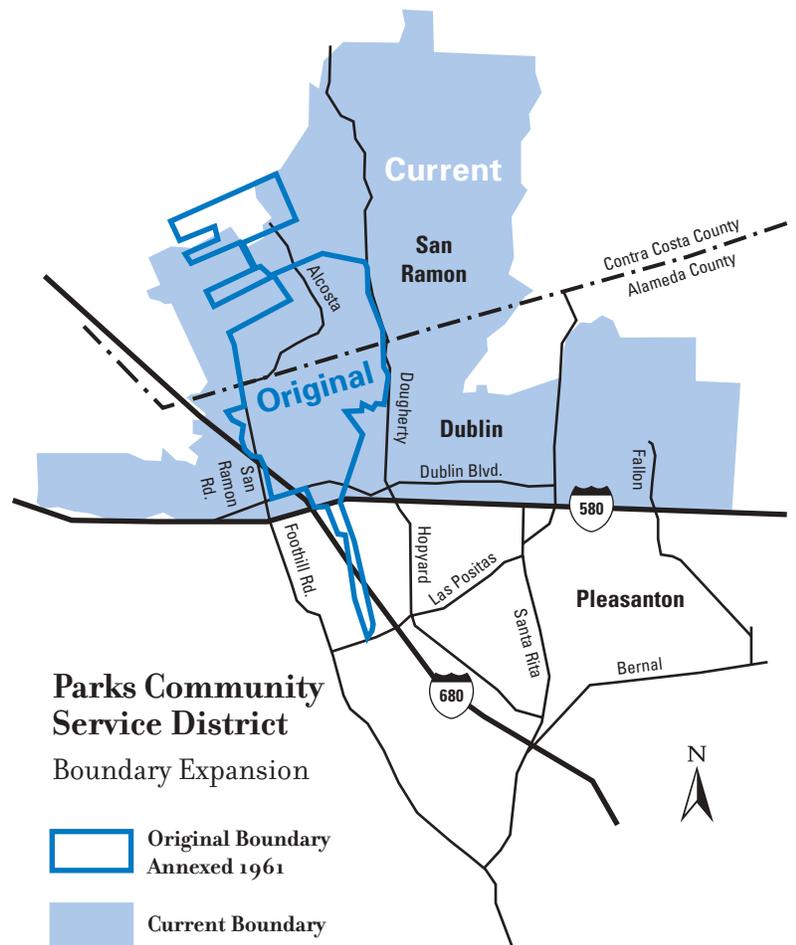
1955: Board authorized the first engineering study on drainage, "the cost of which was not to exceed \$100."

1957: The Board of Directors supported the formation of a flood control district in the Pleasanton/Livermore Valley.

District Map 1960-1969

The sixties were a time of momentous social movements and sweeping legislation (1964 Civil Rights Bill, 1965 Voting Rights Act), of remarkable space achievements (first step on the moon) and tragic assassinations (President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy), during which the longest war (Vietnam) and most active antiwar protest in American history took place. Although the economy prospered, a social and political idealism challenged the materialistic values and conformity of the fifties with an energy that affected changes throughout the American scene. The youth movement, with its assault on "the establishment," gained an unprecedented influence in American history.

Early in 1960, Volk-McLain Communities, Inc., a residential development company, purchased more than 4,000 acres of open land within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Before allowing Volk-McLain to build homes on the property, the two counties required that a public agency be in place to furnish water, treat sewage, collect garbage, and protect the community from fire. That year the District was re-activated to set up these municipal services, and it was given a new name, Valley Community Services District.



Improvements in 1961

In 1961, the District acquired the system of trunk sewers constructed to serve the San Ramon Village development, a capital investment of \$800,000. Initial plant capacity of 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD) was adequate for an equivalent population of 36,000. The plant used the activated sludge process type

of treatment and it provided as high a degree of treatment efficiency as any other municipal plant in the state. Completion of the initial construction amounted to a capital investment of approximately \$1,500,000. Bonds for these two projects were paid off in 1992 and these improvements are still in service.

Honoring Rhoda

Don't think of rhododendrons when you see the signs for Rhoda Avenue (off Vamac) and Rhoda Court in Dublin. The signs honor Rhoda Owen, the District's first retiree. When she was hired in 1960, Rhoda functioned as bookkeeper and the first District Secretary.

Rhoda also ran the District's elections on behalf of the County Clerk, finding the polling places and election workers. She performed that task so well that the County eventually asked Rhoda to set up all local elections. In the District's early years, Rhoda also doubled—or should we say, tripled—as a water meter reader. When she retired, the District encouraged the County to name a street after her. And appropriately, Rhoda Avenue is the street that leads to the District's first reservoir!

Selecting District Colors

Should they be red, white, or yellow? That was the question facing the District's Board of Directors in 1961, when the District obtained its first fire vehicles, which had been purchased for the District by Volk-McLain, developers of San Ramon Village and other local residential areas. Although the vehicles were white, the Board preferred yellow. The change was made.

After the city of Dublin was incorporated and assumed many of the services

provided by the District in 1988, it wanted green to be the color of its employees' uniforms. Light green, of course, had been the District's official color, but in 1989 the Board gave it up and instead approved new District colors of gray and blue, the original colors of the District's first fire department. Uniforms, the logo, and the vehicle colors were changed to reflect the new color scheme.

Changing Names

The District began its life in 1953 as the Parks Community Service District, but changed its name in 1960 to the Valley Community Services District. The District wanted a name that was more generic and which reflected the fact that its service area had expanded.

In 1977, the name changed again when the Board decided the use of the term "Valley" as part of the District name was too general. Director Dick Fahey, in fact, said that the name should represent the communities served: Dublin and San Ramon. The Board discussed whether to use a hyphen or a comma between the words Dublin and San Ramon. The decision, of course, was no hyphen or comma. When the new name was introduced at a Board meeting and someone raised an objection to the order of the cities, Director Joe Covello simply said, "It's alphabetical," and the meeting continued, end of discussion.

A Place to Vent

With the exception of the school district, the Valley Community Services District was the only local government agency in the Dublin area in the early 1960s. As a result, local residents would often show up at District meetings to vent, discussing issues that had nothing to do with District services. The District wound up handling an assortment of complaints—regarding streetlights, street repairs, sheriff patrols, and library services. The complaints kept Board meetings running upward to five hours. The job of writing letters and making telephone calls to route complaints to the proper parties fell to District Secretary Rhoda Owens.

THE YEARS OF
AWAKENING : 1960 - 1969

1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969

- **1960:** District's name changed to Valley Community Services District (VCSD); Volunteer fire department started; William J. Black became the District's first Engineer.
- **1961:** District's area grows to nearly 5,900 acres; Acquired a comprehensive water system—wells and distribution facilities; Services expand to include parks, recreation, and solid waste disposal. Board expands from 3 to 5 members.
- **1962:** Swimming pool donated to the District by Volk-McLain; Southern San Ramon annexed to East Bay Municipal Utility District for water service; Phil Phillips hired as VCSD's first Fire Chief.
- **1963:** Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility operational.
- **1964:** The District's first administrative office was constructed.
- **1967:** Developed a professional fire department.
- **1968:** Shannon Community Center was built.

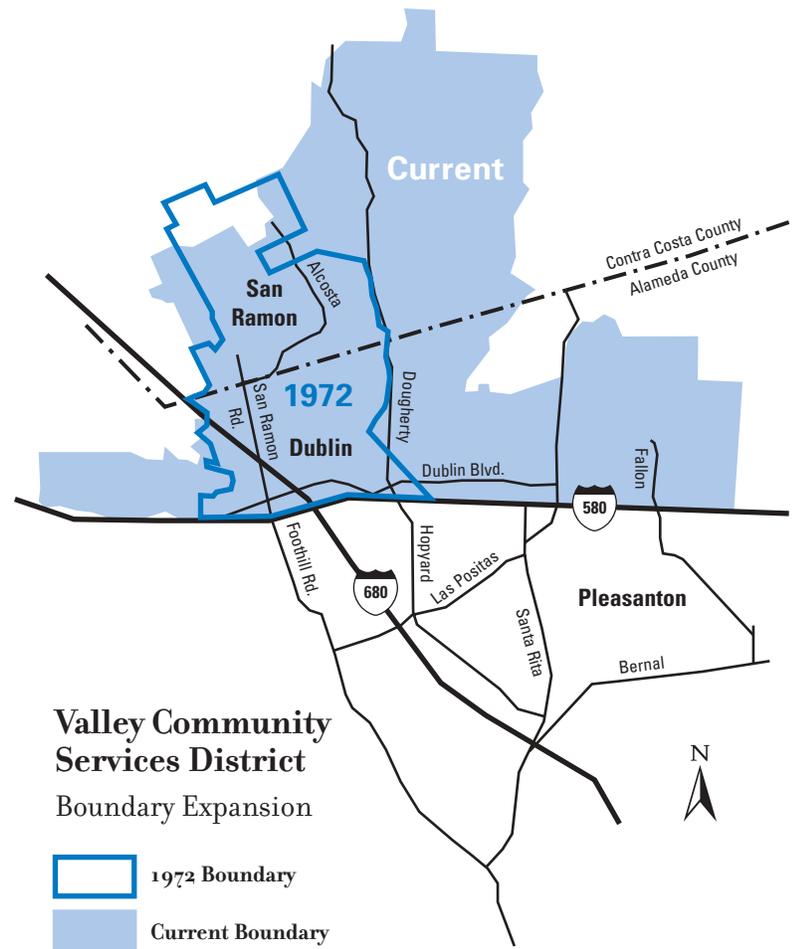
District Map

1970-1979

The seventies were a time of self-awareness, self-improvement, self-fulfillment, female equality, ethnic uniqueness as a source of enrichment rather than embarrassment, and a new openness toward sexuality. The economy suffered as inflation and recession combined to form “stagflation.” And it was the dawn of the Microchip Age, the decade when computer technology became part of everyone’s awareness.

The future of the environment—the danger of its exhaustion as well as the reality of its pollution—entered the mainstream of national awareness as environmentalists and ecologists sponsored the first Earth Day (April 22nd), Congress passed major environmental laws (including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act), the FDA ordered a massive recall of canned tuna for possible mercury poisoning, and an accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant increased fears of a poisoned environment.

At the District, this was the decade of urbanization. In 1977, the District adopted the name by which it is known today, Dublin San Ramon Services District, the volunteer fire department shifted to a department of paid professionals, and the Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) was established to convey treated wastewater from the Valley to the San Francisco Bay.



Prop 13 Cuts into District's Park Budget

Effective July 1, 1978, Prop 13 caused a 60% decrease in funding to the District's services, requiring cuts in personnel. Despite the cuts, industrious employees and innovative methods allowed athletic fields and parks to be maintained almost as well as prior to Prop 13. Using a few paid employees and many volunteers, some recreational services and programs were retained.

Initially, half a dozen sports groups, as non-profit corporations—Dublin Girls Softball, Dublin Soccer, Dublin Little League, San Ramon Soccer, San Ramon Adult Soccer, and

San Ramon Little League, to name a few—leased Athan Downs new Sports Grounds for a dollar a year.

“We knew we were going to have to increase the playing fees because we were going to have to maintain the Sports Grounds,” says Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, President of the Dublin Girls Softball League, “and if nothing else we were going to have to provide some minor electricity, mowing, and watering. The Sports Grounds is 20-acres and Athan Downs is 22-acres, so that was a lot of mowing. The very first months we actually mowed the sports grounds by hand; it was 1978, and most people didn't have power mowers. It took us all weekend!”

The State of California had built up a large surplus and supplemented public agencies including Dublin San Ramon Services District.

LAVWMA Pipeline: Over the Hill and to the Bay...

In 1974, the Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) was created as a Joint Powers Agency with the District, Livermore, and Pleasanton as its member agencies. "LAVWMA's purpose is to convey treated wastewater from the Livermore and the District's treatment plants, west over the Dublin Grade, through Castro Valley and the City of San Leandro, to a pipeline operated by the East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA)," says Vivian Housen, LAVWMA General Manager. EBDA de-chlorinates the effluent and discharges it through a deepwater outfall, into the deepest part of the middle of the San Francisco Bay.

In March 2000, LAVWMA began constructing the first project of the Export Pipeline Facilities Program. This \$180 million program will increase capacity from 21 million gallons per day (MGD) to 41.2 MGD, and will allow LAVWMA to perform needed repairs to its existing facilities. The first project, with a construction value of \$23 million, is referred to as the Dublin Canyon/Force Main Project. (A force main is more robust than a "gravity" pipe because pressure is used to "push" the water through the pipe. In the gravity line, the water is simply "falling" through the pipe.) This project includes a new force main to the top of Dublin Grade, and a new gravity pipe from this point west to Castro Valley.

Once the Dublin Canyon/Force Main project is completed in December 2003, LAVWMA will start pumping treated wastewater through the new pipeline. Then we will shut down the old pipe from Pleasanton to Castro Valley so we can install a lining that will prevent further internal corrosion.

By the end of the year, the Export Pump Station Project (\$8.5 million effort) will be completed. This project will give us additional pumping capacity and improve operation of the facilities.

LAVWMA also just awarded the contract for its third project, called the Castro Valley/Lewelling Segment. This \$33.2 million project includes a new pipeline from Castro Valley to San Leandro. Housen expects construction on this portion of the pipeline to begin in December and continue through Spring 2005.

A 34-foot pump is installed at the LAVWMA Export Pump Station that should be completed by the end of 2003.



A DECADE OF
URBANIZATION: 1970-1979

1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979

1970: Bond election for \$6.7 million creates funding for Shannon Center, Dublin Sports Grounds, parks, tennis courts, Valley Community Swim Center (now Dublin Swim Center) and San Ramon Olympic Pool

1976: Voters approved a referendum for a \$0.20 tax override to be used only for parks and recreation.

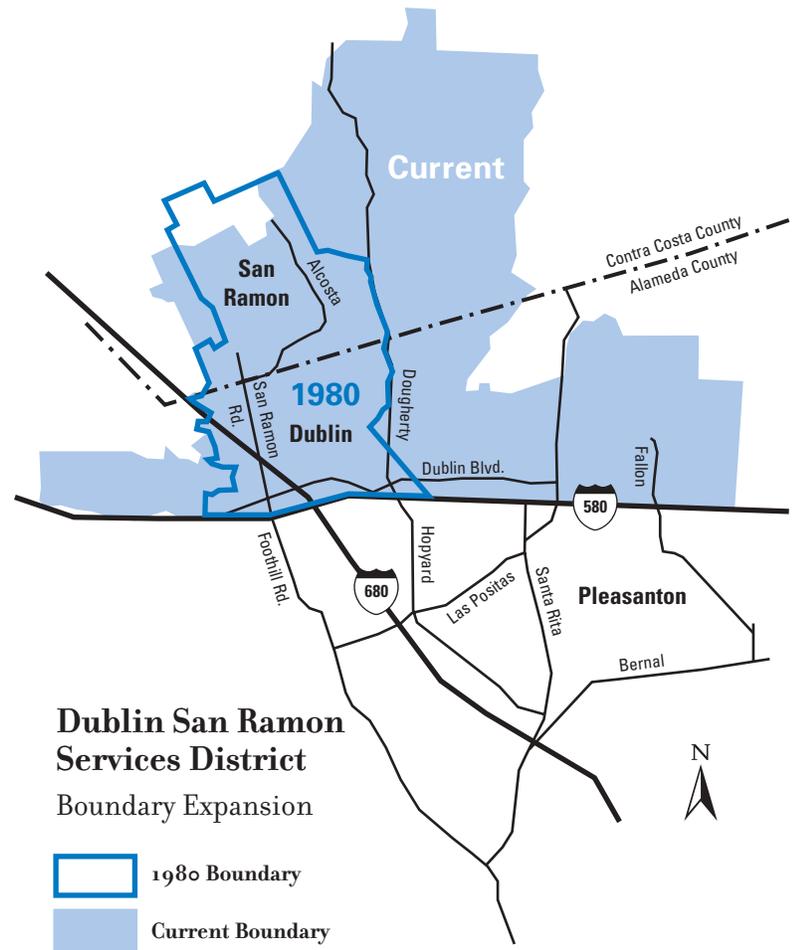
1977: The District changed its name to Dublin San Ramon Services District.

1979: The Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) was established to carry treated wastewater to the Bay.

District Map 1980-1989

The eighties were a time of cyberspace, Cabbage Patch kids, Nintendo, and the first all-news network. The Statue of Liberty turned 100, Bobby McFerrin was telling everyone, "Don't worry, be happy," and Prozac was introduced as an antidepressant. Chernobyl, the world's worst nuclear disaster, occurred; Halley's Comet returned; and the wreckage of the Titanic was found. Saddam Hussein launched war against Iran. The Human Genome project began, the Challenger exploded, the Berlin Wall fell, and the Cold War ended.

As the Valley developed, cities incorporated: Dublin in 1982, San Ramon in 1983. Working closely with these new cities, the District began an orderly transfer, starting with garbage collection in 1986, and ending with the fire department and parks and recreation services in 1988.



Loma Prieta Earthquake

At 5:04 p.m. on October 17, 1989, a 20-second earthquake occurred. Centered 60 miles south of San Francisco, it was among the most catastrophic seismic-induced events killing 62, injuring 3,700, displacing 12,000 and causing billions of dollars in damage.

In an aftershock on November 2, a District water main (hole in foreground of picture at left) broke with enough force to shower dirt and pebbles onto the roof of the home situated across the street.

Birds of a Different Feather

Nature—in the form of fire, violent storms, floods, or simply birds—sometimes has a way of making life a bit too interesting. That’s how some District personnel felt about an invasion of grebes in the early 1980s and nestings of golden eagles in 2001 and 2002.

Grebes are birds that spend most of their time in the water and are well adapted for diving. In the early 1980s, a Pleasanton couple spotted white-eared grebes near the site of construction of the District’s Dedicated Land Disposal Project. The sighting had been heralded as a first for the western side of the Sierra range.

The sighting came the day before the project’s scheduled ground breaking. The contractor had mobilized about 15 pieces of heavy equipment across the street from the District’s Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Pleasanton. The vehicles were fueled and ready to go.

Adult grebes and about a dozen of their chicks were residing in drainage ditches and ponds near the construction site. After a couple of hours of trying to retrieve the birds from the ponds and water-filled ditches so they could be relocated, Bob Anderson and other District personnel became frustrated. A television crew had been on hand to capture their futile roundup effort.

“Their defense mechanism is to bite and draw blood,” said Anderson of the grebes. “They also can stay underwater for a long time. They work like a submarine. They deflate their lungs, sink like a rock, and they can move. You’d see a little bubble and they’d be gone. Minutes later they pop up at another location 15 feet away.”

The District team devised a plan that essentially called for herding the baby grebes into a confined area so they could be captured. By early evening, the grebes

had been rounded up and turned over to an ornithologist from UC Berkeley. “He was just an amazing guy,” said Anderson. “Grebes were his specialty.”

“He had this bucket full of little birds that he’d cleaned up,” Anderson said. “He was going to take them to Fremont because somebody had spotted a couple of grebes there. The ornithologist thought the slough area going into the South Bay would be just the perfect climate for the grebes.”

Feathered friends again halted District construction in 2001 and 2002 when a family of golden eagles nested near two District reservoirs that were under construction. Golden eagles have been a protected species since 1962, because their eggs look very similar to those of the bald eagle.

In 2001, two eaglets were hatched in the nest, stopping construction from February through June. In 2002, the nest supported two adult males, an adult female, and three eaglets. It took 43-45 days of incubation for the eagle eggs to hatch and about 70 days of extensive parental care before the eaglets were ready to leave the nest. Construction was halted from mid-January through May.

One reservoir near the eagle’s nest provides recycled water for landscape irrigation. After two months of no work on the reservoir, a biologist, hired to protect the eagles, allowed night work, on the condition that the crews use only enough light to safely do their work, but not too much light to disrupt the eaglets.

Work at the other reservoir, closest to the area where the eaglets were developing their flying skills, was halted for more than four months. Once the eaglets moved off the ridge, work resumed.

The eagles have nested in that tree for twelve years, so the District has kept the location of the nest confidential to protect the eagles.

TWO CITIES ARE BORN:
1980-1989

1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989

1982: City of Dublin was incorporated.

1983: City of San Ramon was incorporated.

1988: DISTRICT deeded firehouses and equipment, parks, pools, and community centers to the cities of Dublin and San Ramon; An auction was held to divest the District of vehicles and equipment.

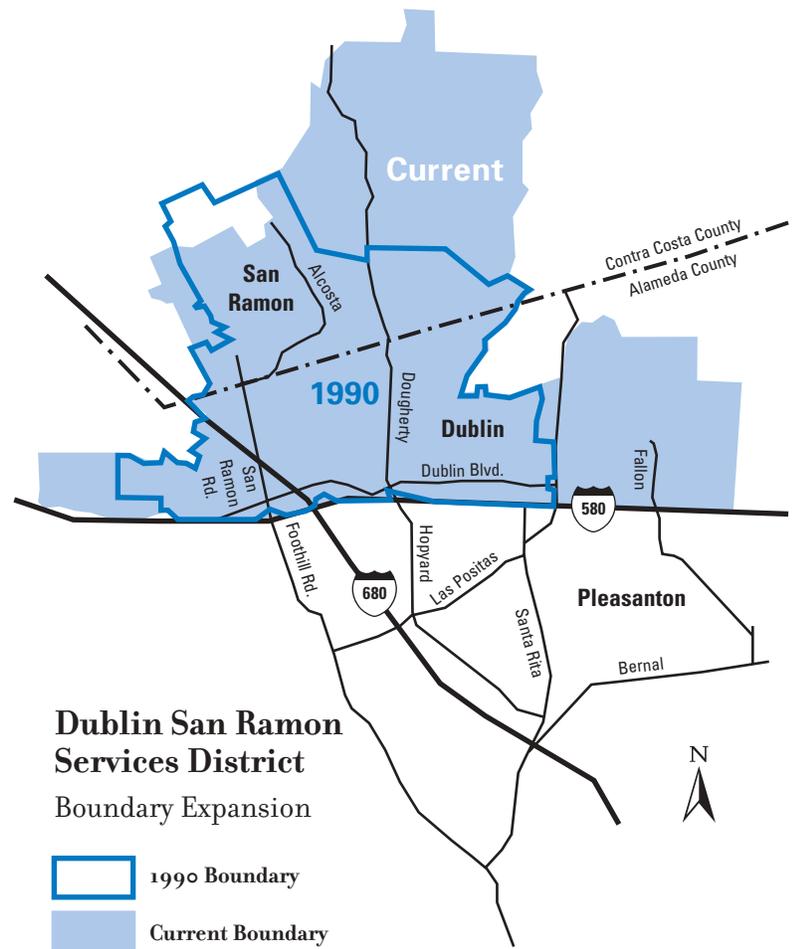
1989: Board approved new gray and blue colors for the District. Uniforms, logo, and District vehicles were changed.

District Map 1990-1999

The nineties were a time of Y2k fever as we approached the end of the millennium and Pokemon swept the nation as the hottest toy. Millions mourned Princess Di's tragic death and cheered when Pathfinder landed on Mars. China resumed control of Hong Kong after 156 years of British rule and the USSR crumbled. Dr. Jack Kevorkian assisted his first suicide, a sheep named Dolly was successfully cloned, and the oldest known human ancestor, *ardipithecus ramidus*, was found in Kenya, East Africa, and estimated to be 4.4 million years old. The Hubble telescope proved the existence of black holes and Johnny Carson left a hole in our hearts when he retired from The Tonight Show.

In 1990, the Board of Directors reorganized staff, redefined department responsibilities, and approved plans for a new administration building. When the building opened in October 1992, it was the first time the District's administrative services, planning and permitting staff, and managers worked under one roof.

For 30 years, the District has used recycled water to irrigate the grounds at its wastewater treatment plant. In 1991, after five years of below-average rainfall, the District, in cooperation with the City of Livermore and Zone 7, initiated a study that showed cost-effective recycling of highly treated wastewater was possible for some public uses.



DERWA: Recycled Water Program

In 1995, a Joint Powers Authority was formed between the District and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to supply recycled water to their respective service areas. Called DERWA (DSRSD EBMUD Recycled Water Authority), the project is currently in the design and construction phase. The first recycled water deliveries are expected to commence in Spring 2005.

The Benefits of Recycled Water:

- Stretches our limited drinking water supply, especially in years of scant rain or snowfall
- Drought resistant
- Helps sustain our economy with a reliable water supply
- Protects San Francisco Bay
- Safeguards community and private investments in parks and landscaping
- Contributes to a green and healthy environment, which benefits our quality of life

Fire at the Facility!

In July 1992 at 7:00 p.m. one hot summer night, an electrical short in the main power board at the treatment facility caused a fire that eliminated all electricity. "It was devastating," recalls Bob Swanson, Facility Manager from October of 1972 through 1999.

A wastewater treatment facility depends wholly on electricity to run its pumps, motors and systems. "We had a total loss of power," he says, "and staff worked unbelievably hard to get us hooked back up. We got generators from the City of Pleasanton and Grecko, a big supplier of generators, and we operated that way for about ten to twelve days without a violation."

Working with our engineers, Brown and Caldwell and Whitley and Associates, staff designed a temporary distribution panel. "And believe it or not, we even went out to bid," Swanson says. "While the panel was being designed, information was being distributed to bidders and when the design was done, we blew a whistle and said, 'Give us your bids.' Simultaneously, we had contracted with a supplier to deliver the panel. It came from back East so it took a couple days to get here, but we had a crane sitting and waiting for its arrival. As soon as the truck came in the front gate, the crane was there to take it off and set it in place so we could start wiring it up."

Like a well-choreographed ballet, the temporary panel was installed within seven to ten days and the plant operated on that panel for nine months to a year while a new panel was designed, one that wouldn't allow an electric short to wipe it out.

In addition, the plant had been nominated for a national Operations and Maintenance award and an inspection



team from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, was coming to inspect right in the middle of the fire recovery efforts. "We still got the award," says Bob Swanson, "for Operations & Maintenance Excellence at a Large Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant!"

An electrical fire in the main switch gear caused a major shut-down of the Facility.

A NEW BEGINNING: 1990-1999

1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999

1992: New Administration building completed.

1995: DSRSD and EBMUD formed a Joint Powers Authority to supply recycled water to serve their respective service areas.

1994: Prison trustees split the District's old administration building apart and moved it down Dublin Boulevard to Camp Parks (now Parks RFTA), where it serves as the Human Resources Department for the Federal Correctional Institute.

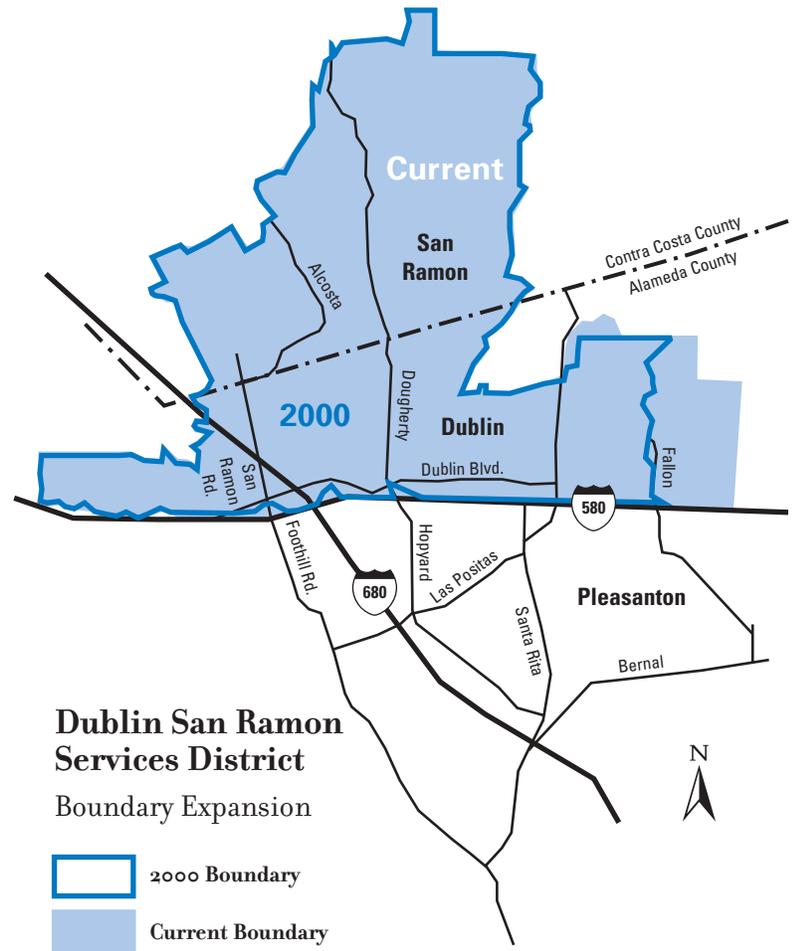
1999: Began replacing water and sewer system pipes from Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Parks RFTA) to incorporate the Parks RFTA water system and storage reservoir into the District's system.

District Map 2000-2003

With the new millennium, the District is now busy designing and bidding projects that were begun in the 1990s when the District was planning to expand services. Such projects included the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program, the Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency, the Dougherty Valley transfer, and the Clean Water Revival.

Soon the District will return to the routine of simply operating its water, wastewater and recycled water systems.

A top priority has always been to provide our customers with competitively priced, high quality water and wastewater in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This will continue for the next fifty years.



Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Dublin San Ramon Services District to provide our customers with competitively priced high quality water and wastewater services, in a manner that is socially and environmentally responsible.

In support of this mission, the Dublin San Ramon Services District is committed to the following:

Providing prompt, courteous and uninterrupted service to our customers.
Sound financial practices that provide adequate

funds to support the operation of our services.
Planning, designing, constructing and operating our facilities in an efficient, safe and effective manner—always remembering that we are a neighbor in the community and resident of the environment.

Maintaining a qualified, flexible and creative work force with careers that pay dividends on the investment of talents.

Working in concert with other public agencies and organizations.

Maintaining an actively involved and cooperative posture towards regulatory legislation at all levels.

District Achievements: 2000-2003

Since the beginning of the new millennium, the following are highlights of our achievements:

- Maintained the lowest combined water and sewer rates in the Valley.
- Increased security measures to ensure the safety of our water supply and physical assets: pump stations, pipelines, reservoirs, and treatment facilities.
- Reduced unaccounted for water (water the District purchases from Zone 7 that is not billed to a customer or charged to a particular project) from 18 percent of our water purchases to 12 percent, saving the District \$265,000.
- Continued to expand our service area: 4,200 acres in central and eastern Dublin and 4,400 acres in Dougherty Valley. These areas will more than triple the combined total of the District's potable, recycled water, and wastewater customers, lowering the cost of doing business due to the economies of scale.
- Continued to supply recycled water to our commercial customers for irrigation purposes, thereby supplementing drinking water supplies.
- Continued expansion of water service to the Dougherty Valley area, providing water to our first customer! During the next 10 to 15 years, it is anticipated that Dougherty Valley will expand to 10,000 equivalent water connection dwelling units.
- Annexed a major portion of the eastern Dublin area (3,500 acres with 900 acres remaining) to the District and it is anticipated that this area will expand to 10,000 equivalent water and sewer dwelling unit connections during the next 10 to 15 years.
- Continued working in partnership with the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) on the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program to recycle 6,500 acre feet of water per year for irrigation purposes. This is enough water for approximately 15,000 single-family homes.
- Sponsored two Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) seminars for 40 teachers in our service area and held our first Persuasive Essay Contest for middle school and high school students.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM:
2000-2003

2000

2001

2002

2003

2000: Threat of a Y2K bug comes and goes leaving the ever-prepared District unfazed.

2001: 9/11 prompts the District to take further steps for increasing security measures to ensure the safety of the water supply and its public assets.

2001: District service area expands by 8,600 acres, for a total of 16,575 acres.

2003: Dublin San Ramon Services District celebrates its 50th Anniversary of service.

PARK LEGACY

.....
Vonheeder-Leopold remembers that when Covello gave her the toy mower he remarked, "I never thought that I would find someone that loved parks as much as I did."

When Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold (a former District Board member) retired from the Dublin City Council several years ago, former District Director Joe Covello presented her with an unusual gift: a toy lawn mower.

The toy mower symbolized a cause that brought them together in the late 1970s: the preservation of the District's legacy of park and recreation facilities that had been decimated by the passage of Proposition 13.

Approved by voters in June 1978, Proposition 13 drastically decreased the amount of property taxes homeowners had to pay. Overnight the District lost 60 percent of its funding.

"Consequently, the District had no way to operate the parks, and they were responsible for all the parks in Dublin and south San Ramon," says Vonheeder-Leopold, who at the time was president of the Dublin Girls' Softball League. "We had no place to play."

Covello was on the District's Board at the time and shared Vonheeder-Leopold's passion for parks.

"He offered to meet me somewhere and see if we could put together something where all the sports groups could lease the parks," remembers Vonheeder-Leopold.

Covello had been appointed to a new District Finance Committee to find ways to compensate for the loss of revenue. The result, says Phil Phillips, a former District Interim Finance Officer, was that the District developed some innovative methods and was "able to maintain the school district's athletic fields and District parks almost as well as prior to Prop 13."

Watering and mowing grass were among the big park and recreation expenses at the District. "The first months, soccer parents actually mowed the 22-acre Dublin Sports Ground by hand," said Vonheeder-Leopold. "You have to remember this was 1978. Most people didn't have power mowers."

Vonheeder-Leopold remembers that when Covello gave her the toy mower, he remarked, "I never thought that I would find someone that loved parks as much as I did."

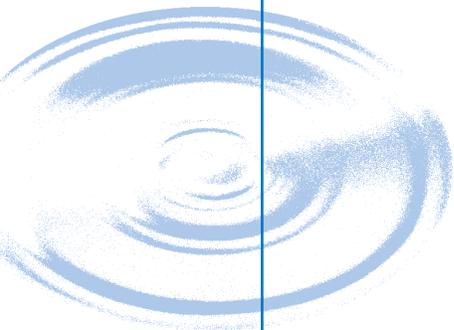
The District's involvement in park and recreation services goes back to 1961, when it expanded its charter to include new responsibilities according to community needs. At the time, park and recreation facilities in the area were limited. There was a swimming pool at Dublin Elementary School, built by Volk-McLain, developers of San Ramon Village and other housing, but that was about it for community recreational facilities.

To give it needed park and recreation monies for growth and upkeep, the District decided in 1962 to levy a 50-cents surcharge on water bills during the summer months. The surcharge covered the expenses of temporary employees, rent on facilities and equipment and maintenance, and provided some program expansion.

Six years later, the District opted to direct a \$250,000 surplus toward the expansion of recreational facilities. It also created a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee that helped fashion a Master Plan, which eventually led to the passage of the Parks and Recreation General Bond. Committee meetings held to solicit public input showed that local residents wanted a community center, a pool facility and sports fields.

As a response to the community input, the Committee recommended that the District buy a 25-acre parcel at the corner of San Ramon Road and Shannon Avenue owned by the Catholic Diocese of Oakland. The result was the creation of the Shannon Community Center in Dublin.

By 1970, the District had added Directors and staff knowledgeable and experienced in running park and recreation programs. That year, the Board proposed a \$6.7 million bond issue that passed with 73 percent of the vote. The



bond issue gave the District the money to develop the Dublin Sports Grounds, including soccer fields and baseball diamonds.

Other improvements during this period of massive expansion included:

- *Athan Downs.* This 20-acre sports park facility in southern San Ramon at Montevideo Avenue was named after Byron Athan, the President of the District's Board of Directors who had been very active in promoting the bond issue.

- *Kolb Park.* Tennis courts were just one of the improvements at this park, named after an early Dublin pioneering family.

- *John Mape Park in the Silvergate Center.* The land for the park was donated to the District by developer Tom Gentry. The park is named after Navy pilot John Mape, whose plane went down in the Tonkin Gulf. Mape was the first Dublin resident to lose his life in the Vietnam War.

- *Boone Acres.* This is a five-acre park on Davona Drive in San Ramon adjacent to Pine Valley Middle School.

- *San Ramon Senior Center.* The District operated the Senior Center out of a former farmer's residence, known as "The White House," which included a seven acre site of land.

- *Valley Community Swim Center.* The swim center (now known as the Dublin Swim Center) was built on property owned by the school district at Dublin High School.

- *San Ramon Olympic Pool.* This pool was built adjacent to California High School. The only Olympic size pool in the Valley at the time, it became a focal point for community swim meets.

A park dedication fee paid by developers helped fund the District's expanding network of community park and recreation assets. The District fought hard for creation of the fee, which was

passed in Alameda County in 1970 and Contra Costa County in 1972.

Families and sports enthusiasts began flocking to the new facilities. Soccer and softball leagues were organized and swimming pools offered open swimming hours and full programs of classes.

But by 1978, the District was forced to terminate its entire recreation staff in response to the financial hit from Proposition 13. The District, however, worked out an arrangement with a semi-public non-profit entity (for a few paid people and volunteers) to provide some recreational services.

.....
The Valley Community Swim Center (now known as the Dublin Swim Center) was built on property owned by the school district at Dublin High School.



By 1988, the District was out of the park and recreation business. This was a direct effect of the incorporation of the City of Dublin in 1982, and the City of San Ramon in 1983, and the cities' desire to assume services that had long been provided by the District.

In 1988, the District deeded its parks, pools, and recreation centers to Dublin and San Ramon and gave them funds that were being designated for further development of park systems.

Today, although park and recreation is no longer a District function, the legacy the District created and nurtured for more than two decades continues to serve the citizens of Dublin and San Ramon.

**PARK & RECREATION
SERVICES: 1961-1988**

FIRE & WATER:

1953-1988

Once upon a time Fire and Water lived together harmoniously at the crossroads in a picturesque valley. They even shared the same house until the day when Fire's neighbors beckoned, "Come live with us."

This may sound like the start of a children's tale, but actually, it's a slice of the District's early history: For 35 years, fire—more specifically, fire protection—was an essential service offered by what is now the Dublin San Ramon Services District.

The District got out of the fire protection business in 1988, when the Cities of San Ramon and Dublin took it over. The District's fire protection responsibilities can be tracked back to 1953, when residents living along Dougherty Road and Dublin Boulevard (near Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, formerly known as Camp Parks) voted to establish a special district. The district, called the Parks Community Service District, was created to provide wastewater collection and treatment, domestic water, and fire protection.

But the District didn't begin offering fire protection services until 1960 after Volk-McLain, southern California developers, moved northward and opened a local housing development they called San Ramon Village.

By this time, the Parks Community Service District had changed its name to Valley Community Services District, reflecting the fact that the District had expanded and was no longer so closely confined to the Camp Parks area.

The District's first fire department was comprised entirely of volunteers. It was under the direction of temporary chief George Walser, husband of District board member Betty Walser.

Following a "controlled" barn burn that went astray and consumed several acres of grain, the Board decided it needed a permanent, professional fire chief. On October 17, 1961, the Board named Phil Phillips to the position.

When Phillips assumed his new job,

the District still didn't have a fire station, but one was under construction on Donahue Drive. The fire equipment was housed in a fenced enclosure across the street from the present Alameda County Fire Station. Volk-McLain bought the first fire truck, fire hoses, hats, axes, and other fire prevention tools to equip the first firehouse.

Phillips' assignment was to reorganize the department and put it on a solid foundation with sound financial footing. By 1964, under Phillips' direction, the District started to develop a professional fire department and hired enough firefighters to staff the Donahue Fire Station around the clock. "Firefighters were the only employees the District had who were on-call 24 hours a day," said Phillips.

That meant the firefighters had to be versatile, since they were the ones who received calls if there were water or sewer problems when other District employees were off duty. "Later, for the wastewater plan, the District got an answering service that took care of those trouble calls," recalls Phillips, "But for water related issues, our guys were trained enough so they could go out and start the wells or shut them down."

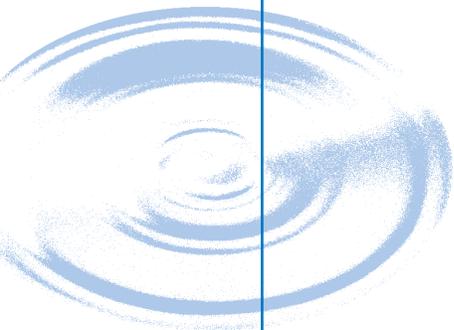
In 1968, the District built its second fire station at Fircrest and Alcosta. Phillips said that in hindsight he should have been more insistent about spreading the stations further apart. "I also would have liked to have added assistant fire chiefs earlier than I had, to have spread some of the workload," he said.

Phillips was hard pressed in the District's early years. He doubled as Fire Marshal, handling fire prevention inspections until the District could afford to hire inspectors.

Major fires that occurred during Phillips' years as fire chief included:

- *Dublin Corral Bar and Restaurant Fire.* This fire occurred in 1962 in the portion of Dublin west of San Ramon Road. The Dublin Corral Bar and Restaurant was not in the District at the time. Because of

"Firefighters were the only employees the District had who were on-call 24 hours a day," said Phillips.



FIRE & WATER: 1953-1988

that fire and the fact that no water was available to fight fires, the property owners very shortly filed for annexation with the District.

• *Castlewood Fire.* This 1969 fire destroyed the historic Hacienda del Pozo de Verona at the Castlewood Country Club. The hacienda was once the home of Phoebe Apperson Hearst, mother of media mogul William Randolph. District personnel were part of a mutual aid agreement with Pleasanton.

• *Neil Armstrong School.* This 1970s fire was a four-alarm arson fire set by two boys. It put San Ramon's Neil Armstrong School out of service for a couple of years. It was the largest fire in the District.

• *Western Dublin Hills Grass Fire.* There was no property damage as a result of this 1970s fire. "It was very hot," recalls Bob Anderson, referring to weather conditions. "Once the fire started it created its own weather and developed its own wind patterns. District employees were put on notice to help firefighters prepare a fire-break using shovels and rakes."

According to Anderson, California Department of Forestry fire suppression planes dropped retardant. Many fire units responded as a part of a mutual aid agreement.

Unfortunately, winds howling through Dublin Canyon caused fire retardant to miss its intended mark and land directly on the fire truck. For two years, fire fighters were cleaning the sticky red compound out of the cracks and crevices of their truck.

Another District employee pressed into fire duty, John Mauck, recalls the terrifying sound of a live oak tree as it exploded in a firestorm and how the six foot wall of flames rushing over the crest of the hill reinforced how much he did not want to be a fire fighter and did want to remain working in the water department.

• *Wastewater Treatment Facility Fire.* This, says DISTRICT retiree Bob Swanson, was a devastating fire that took

the treatment facility out of commission for a while. This fire occurred on a hot July evening in 1992, when an electrical connection on a main breaker panel arched. Facility staff, said Swanson, "worked unbelievably diligently to get us



hooked back up." Generators, loaned by the city of Pleasanton and a big supplier, were quickly brought in and allowed the facility to operate for about two weeks before permanent repairs were made.

Phillips says he is grateful no District firefighters were killed in the line of duty during his tenure. He says structural fires in the District were rare. Most of the fires District personnel responded to were grass fires, trash fires, automobile fires, and fires involving equipment such as air conditioners and lighting fixtures.

Under Phillips, the District Fire Department enjoyed 26 years of stability and had the best insurance underwriters' rating in the Valley (a three rating) at the time. Eventually other cities in the Valley caught up.

The District fire department grew to a professional staff of 51 by 1988, at which time the department, personnel and assets were transferred to a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), operated by the cities of Dublin and San Ramon. Volunteers remained a part of the District's fire-fighting team until fire prevention was transferred to the JPA.

One of the District's fire engines before the cities of Dublin and San Ramon took over this service.

FIRE SERVICES:
1953-1988

MOVING DAY & A DROUGHT GARDEN

Consternation: That's probably the best word to describe the reaction in 1964 when the District settled on the site for its first Administration Building. The District was criticized for choosing a site "out in the sticks," remembers Phil Phillips, the District's first professional Fire Chief and a long-time District administrator.

Located on the lot where the current District Office now sits, the first Administration Building was one of the first structures built on Dublin Boulevard.



The 1964 home for the District was a modular building placed on a raised foundation. Before the dredging and activation of current flood control channels, this location flooded during heavy rains.

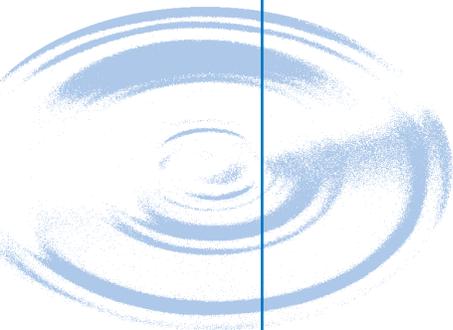
The Dublin Boulevard building was actually the District's third meeting place. The first District Office was located inside a barn owned by Jim Glenn, one of the District's first Directors. Later District meetings were held in the District's first firehouse on Dinah Drive. In 1992, the District constructed its current Administration Building on what had been its corporation yard. Following approval of new building plans, discussions focused on what to do with the old home.

The opinions of the District Board of Directors ran the full gamut, from burning it to preservation. Eventually, they decided to preserve it. Arrangements were made to dismantle the building and reconstruct it at the new Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) at Camp Parks.

FCI inmate labor was used to disassemble the building, and the Fisher House Moving Company transported it in three sections to its new home at Camp Parks where it now serves as home for the FCI Human Resources Department. FCI inmates built the foundation, put the building back together, and rewired and re-plumbed the entire building.

Top: Located on the lot where the current District Office now sits, the first Administration Building was one of the first structures built on Dublin Blvd.

Bottom: The old Administration Building was dismantled and moved by truck down Dublin Boulevard to its current location at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA).



Today the footprint of the first Administration Building lies within the District's 26,000-square-foot Drought



Tolerant Garden (also known as the Water Conservation Garden), east of the present building. The purpose of the garden is to provide area residents with ideas they can apply to their own water conserving gardens.

The garden is divided into six sections that demonstrate how plants can survive and thrive in varying degrees of water needs. The most drought tolerant ground covers are planted closest to the street and near the parking lot. Less drought tolerant shrubs and trees are in sections closer to the Administration Building.

Visitors to the garden can explore the six sections by traversing a crushed rock pathway.

Top: Workers check to see if their load has enough clearance as the old Administration building works its way down Dublin Boulevard.

Center: The current home of Dublin San Ramon Services District.

Bottom: A view of one of the sections that make up the 26,000 square foot Water Conservation Garden at the District.

THE ADMIN BUILDING & GARDEN: 1964-2003

In the Dublin San Ramon Services District Water Conservation Garden, each plant is identified by a sign providing its common name and scientific nomenclature. The following is a list of the 27 different drought-tolerant plants and trees featured in the 26,000 square foot garden:

Japanese Corral Maple *'Sangu Kaku'*
 Garden Penestrom
 Dwarf Heavenly Bamboo *'Nana'*
 Weeping Cherry *'Pendula'*
 Tree Roses
 Shrub Roses
 New Zealand Tea Tree *'Ruby Glow'*
 Coast Redwood *'Aptos Blue'*

Iceplant
 Indian Hawthorn
 Mauve Clusters
 Mexican Evening Primrose
 New Zealand Tea Tree *'Gaiety Girl'*
 Australian Tea Tree
 Dwarf Escallonia *'Terri'*
 Maidenhair Tree
 Deodor Cedar

Atlantic Cedar
 Flowering Quince *'Cameo'*
 Japanese Persimmon *'Fuyu'*
 English Lavender
 Lantana
 Eve Case
 Coffeeberry *'Eve Case'*
 Australian Fushia *'Carmen Bells'*

Texas Ranger
 Irish Moss
 Seasonal Bedding Plants
With the help of Boy Scout Troop 905, the District Property Management staff designed, organized, and constructed the garden in 1995 for a cost of \$1.50 per square foot.

EXPANSIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

Stage 1: The District's original treatment facility was built in 1961, with the capacity to process 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater. Considered a model of efficiency when it began operating in 1962, the plant's flow was actually so slow, remembers long-time District Fire Chief Phil Phillips, that then-Superintendent Jack Muir "used to ask people to flush twice to get the sewage to the plant."

Director Dick Fahey was working for Chevron Chemical at the time the plant first came on line. A large supplier to the synthetic detergent industry, Chevron



was having problems with non-biodegradable products. Because the plant could handle non-biodegradable items "pretty well," says Fahey, Chevron became very interested in the District's treatment facility. Said Fahey, "This indicates the treatment plant was well regarded from the beginning."

The original plant included one digester, one primary sedimentation tank, two aeration basins, one secondary clarifier, a small chlorine contact tank, and the one-story operations building.

Stage 2: The 1971 plant expansion added a second digester, a second primary sedimentation tank, and a second secondary sedimentation tank. With this



expansion, the plant's average dry weather flow (ADWF) was 4MGD.

Stage 3: In 1978, the plant expansion installed a third primary sedimentation tank, a third aeration basin, another secondary clarifier, and converted the old secondary clarifier into a dissolved air flotation thickener (DAFT). With this expansion, the plant's ADWF was 8.34 MGD.

Stage 3a: In 1981, the Stage 3a expansion put in a third secondary sedimentation tank. With this expansion, the plant's ADWF was 9 MGD.

Stage 3b: In 1985, the Stage 3b improvements expanded the headworks (the place where the wastewater enters the

Top: Primary sedimentation tanks at the Wastewater Treatment Facility in the late 70s.

Left: The digesters that process solid waste.

Bottom: The original cogenerators of the early 80s help to reduce the Facility's electric bill.

Right: The new lab under construction.

Top right: The entrance to District Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility located in Pleasanton.



EXPANSIONS & IMPROVEMENTS



treatment facility, the influent pump room); added the odor reduction tower; rebuilt the DAFT, updating its equipment; made some minor modifications to the operations building; and added onto the chlorine tank, doubling its size.

The influent pumps lift the wastewater approximately 20 feet so it can flow downstream by gravity, through subsequent treatment units: grit removal tanks, primary sedimentation tanks, aeration tanks (also known as aeration basins), secondary clarifiers (also known as secondary sedimentation tanks), and the chlorine contact tank. With this expansion, the plant's ADWF was 11.5 MGD.



Stage 4: In 2000, Stage 4 expansions and improvements began and the following additions were made to the plant: a new bar screen building; a fourth primary sedimentation tank; two more aeration basins and their associated blower system (the new blowers and diffusers are more efficient, using less electricity and resulting in a better oxygen transfer rate); a fourth secondary clarifier; some modifications to the DAFT (new pumps and expansion of the facility); and a third digester.

The Stage 4 plant expansion increased the Wastewater Treatment Plant's ADWF from 11.5 MGD to 17 MGD.



REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Pleasanton Wastewater

In 1968, the East Amador Lift Station was built on District property in order to treat approximately ten percent of Pleasanton's wastewater that was closer to the District's treatment plant than it was to Pleasanton's plant. A few years later, Pleasanton re-routed all their sewer lines to the District's plant for treatment because their plant required extensive renovation and it was more cost effective to contract with the District for treatment of their wastewater.

A New, Expanded Laboratory

In 1995, a second story was added to the operations building to house a new laboratory, increasing the lab's square footage from 1,100 to 5,000 square feet. Designed by the Laboratory staff, the result was a large main laboratory in the center with satellite rooms around the two sides. Large windows between the satellite rooms and the large main lab allow staff to multi-task.

"The Lab is now big enough that we can do our jobs without bumping into one another,"

according to Environmental Services Division Manager Bing Misra.

New equipment added to the Laboratory since it was expanded include the following: gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer; atomic absorption spectral photometer with a graphite furnace; a total organic carbon analyzer; and an ion chromatograph. In addition, sophisticated fume hoods were installed that are pressure adjusted electronically.

CLEAN WATER REVIVAL PROJECT

In the 1990s, the Dublin San Ramon Services District unveiled the Clean Water Revival (CWR) Project, a bold initiative designed to obtain additional wastewater disposal capacity to meet the



Breaking ground for the Clean Water Revival Project at the CWR Plant located just within the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Pleasanton.

requirement of the general plans of the City of Dublin and the City of San Ramon. The project was driven by concern that the LAVWMA pipeline, carrying treated wastewater to San Francisco Bay, would not be able to accommodate any more flows.

In January 1997, when it appeared that LAVWMA was not making progress toward expanding its pipeline (it has since nearly doubled the amount of wastewater it carries), the District Board of Directors authorized the design of a wastewater recycling facility. The facility would use microfiltration (MF), reverse osmosis (RO) and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technology to produce highly purified water from wastewater.

The CWR Project, however, encountered a flurry of vocal opposition. At issue was the plan to inject the bacteria and virus-free, purified water into the

groundwater basin. The injected water would be further purified underground by Mother Nature as it traveled many miles over the course of 10 to 15 years from the CWR Plant to the nearest well.

According to then District Board President Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold, RO injection is the least expensive and most effective way to reduce salts in groundwater and would help reduce the Valley's dependence on imported drinking water. The injection technique, she said, has been practiced for decades—most notably in Orange County.

In 1998, the Zone 7 Board of Directors voted to withdraw its support of groundwater injection, saying they did so because there did not appear to be a sufficient level of support from the general public.

And, so in November 2002, the District Board of Directors adopted a policy to proceed to use recycled water for irrigation purposes only and not to inject RO-treated water into the groundwater, because LAVWMA was on schedule and provided the wastewater disposal capacity the District needed. The landscape element of the project, entitled Clean Water Revival/’Puttin’ on the Green, utilizes MF, UV, and pipeline sections which uses 85% of the \$25 million CWR plant. Microfiltration and ultraviolet cleansing of wastewater create recycled water ideal for landscape irrigation.

Definition of Terms

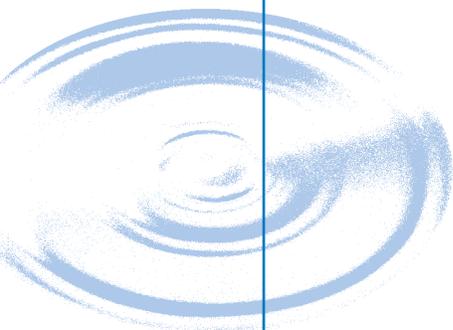
Microfiltration (MF) uses pressure to separate the liquid portion of wastewater from suspended solids.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) is a proven technology whereby water under pressure is forced through thin manufactured membranes. Except for the water molecules themselves, virtually every substance, including bacteria, viruses and minerals is removed. This centuries-old technology has been used for years in the Middle East to produce drinking water from salt water, in space to recycle astronauts’

wastewater, and in Orange County where it is injected into the groundwater. RO water meets public health standards for injection into an underground aquifer or storage in a reservoir for future potable use.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), sometimes called salts, are minerals in the water that do not evaporate and are not removed in the primary and secondary wastewater treatment processes.

Ultraviolet Disinfection (UV) is the process that uses ultraviolet light to disinfect water.



PUTTIN' ON THE GREEN

As the new millennium dawns, a new source of water has been developed to irrigate the landscape.

Built from the ground up, using the latest techniques available to conserve water, the new community of Eastern Dublin uses recycled water to irrigate the landscaping in its parks and schools, the Dublin Ranch golf course, and many common areas of new home and commercial developments.

One of the most progressive and environmentally friendly recycled water programs in the Bay Area, Puttin' on the Green keeps landscaping lush throughout the year (especially during droughts) and saves precious drinking water resources.



Top: The District celebrates at the Dublin Sports Park, the first area irrigated with recycled water.

Left: Oscar the Otter, the mascot for the District, teaches kids about the benefits of recycled water.

A PRECIOUS RESOURCE:
RECYCLED WATER

The Brief History of Recycled Water

Recycled water has been used throughout the State of California as far back as the turn of the century. The founders of Golden Gate Park began irrigating with untreated sewage in 1889 to make the park soil more productive. The first water reclamation plant was constructed there in 1932. The City and County of San Francisco continue today to include water reuse in their master plan for water resources management.

Meanwhile, hundreds of other water and wastewater agencies also are actively reclaiming our state's "liquid gold" for irrigation of pastures and food crops, as well as landscape irrigation of schools, parks, and golf courses. In addition, recycled water is used for recreation, habitat restoration, and commercial uses such as carpet dyeing, paper production, heating and cooling. Purified recycled water has also been used to help

replenish groundwater supplies. Joining over 200 other water agencies throughout California, the District has embarked on a water recycling program to help meet the goals adopted by the California State Legislature, providing at least 1.5 million acre-feet per year of recycled water by the year 2020.

SUGGESTION OF THE YEAR



Above: Jonathan Penaflo, the 2002 Suggestion of the Year winner, sits in front of a computer displaying his idea for a computer users' guide on the District intranet.

The Suggestion Plan Program encourages employees to contribute to the District's efficiency and economy, to directly increase the effectiveness of District programs and missions, or to improve safety.

1989: *Mike Spowhn, Rob Fowler*
Automate LAVWMA pump control to pump during hours of low energy demand instead of pumping around the clock. Pumping treated wastewater through the LAVWMA lines during off-peak hours saved the District \$150,000 to 180,000 per year.

1990: *Wes Tang*
Examine different types of electric motors for our water pump stations. Savings: \$7,437 rebate in 1991 and lower electric bills in the future.

1991: *Mike Spowhn, Emil Kattan*
Pursue a cash rebate from PG&E for energy conservation features included in the rehabilitation of the East Amador Pump Station.

1992: *Jim Simonds*
Recognize the need to clearly identify District equipment, especially hand-held radios which cost \$1,000-\$2,000 each and "have a tendency to grow legs and walk off."

1993: *Bob Gresens*
Administer flu shots to all District employees, saving significant amounts of time and reducing employee sick leave.

1994: *Gail Hargis-Brubaker, Julie Yuan-Miu*
Implement an employee appreciation system to recognize "All-Star Performers," improving morale and recognizing when an individual goes out of his or her way to do a good job. Everyone in the District participates by being able to give and receive the recognition.

1995: *Loy Riddle*
Install piping on the co-generation engines, recirculating a portion of the exhaust gasses back through the engine to reduce overall emissions, achieving compliance with regulations set forth by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for Nitrogen Oxide emissions. In a short amount of time, this suggestion saved the District in excess of \$20,000 for the following reasons: using digester gas in the engines to generate electricity; avoiding the need to install a temporary boiler to heat the digesters this winter; and avoiding the need to get an extension of the air quality permit variance.

1996: *Sheldon E. Jones*
Underground Service Alert use purple to mark recycled water lines and clearly distinguish them from gravity sewer lines. This suggestion was the result of an incident where a contractor damaged the pressurized portion of the LAVWMA export line which they thought was only a sewer line. The suggestion was adopted by USA for standard use throughout California.

A Little Scotch in Your Water?

Jim Nelson immigrated to the States from Scotland as a young man and went through life proud of his heritage. In 1966, he decided to run for the District's Board of Directors using the motto, "Put a little Scotch in your water."

Says former Director Dick Fahey, "Because of or in spite of that campaign, he was elected."

SUGGESTION OF THE YEAR

1997: *Robert A. Anderson*

Enter into a bartering agreement with Coast Landscaping to enable the District to install the Recycled Water Demonstration Garden in a very cost effective manner: in addition to performing all outside maintenance at the District Offices and mowing the Plant lawns, Coast Landscaping uses the old Camp Parks (now Parks Reserve Forces Training Area) pump station property in exchange for constructing the putting green adjacent to the Recycled Demonstration Garden.

1998: *Bruce Webb*

Install a recycled water pipeline through the Park Sierra Apartments project to preserve flexibility in selecting future pipeline alignments to serve recycled water to eastern Dublin, Dougherty Valley, central Dublin and San Ramon.

1999: *Terry Kirchner*

Display District placards in areas of upcoming water service interruptions to notify customers.

1999: *Frances Robustelli*

Annually solicit competitive bids from temporary employment agencies so as to receive and negotiate the best hourly employment rates.

2000: *Merlin Davis, Terry Kirchner*

Purchase a portable remote laptop computer with the SCADA system installed, allowing the computer to be carried in the vehicle by the operator on duty,

eliminating the need for the on-call operator to go back to the Field Services office to monitor or make necessary adjustments to the distribution system. This saves the District personnel and travel costs associated with the on-call operator's time spent traveling back to the field services trailer to monitor the distribution system. It saves personnel costs associated with the on-call operator not having to contact someone at Field Services for them to check the SCADA system and make necessary adjustments to the system. And it saves operational costs associated with greater response time as a result of the on-call operator's ability to monitor the system throughout the day from wherever he/she may be, thereby creating better control and monitoring of the distribution system.

2001: *Brian Vannatter*

Create a third water system for the microfiltration and reverse osmosis plant, use recycled water instead of potable water for backwash supply water for the strainers on the MF feed. This saves water (approximately 15,000 to 20,000 gallons per day) and saved the District approximately \$7,600 in the first year it was implemented (2001).

2002: *Jonathan Penaflor*

Post a personal computer users' guide that addresses common problems and solutions on the District intranet.

EMPLOYEE IDEAS SAVE DISTRICT MONEY

The District FAQs

Q: How many people are served by Dublin San Ramon Services District?

A: The cities of Dublin, Southern San Ramon, Pleasanton and Dougherty Valley in San Ramon—approximate population of 120,000.

Q: How many total acres are in the District's service area?

A: 16,575

Q: What types of customers are served?

A: Domestic, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional

Q: How many miles of sewers are there?

A: 145

Q: How many people does the District employ?

A: 82

Q: What is the annual operating budget?

A: \$38,983,825

Q: What is the average daily water consumption for a single-family residence?

A: 300 gallons per day

Q: Where does our water come from?

A: Lake Oroville via the State Water Project, local groundwater and local runoff impounded at Lake Del Valle

An Award Winning Agency

1974

Plant of the Year

Presented by California Water Pollution Control Association San Francisco Bay Section

1981

Plant of the Year

California Water Pollution Control Association San Francisco Bay Section

1987

Outstanding Operation and Maintenance of its Municipal Treatment Plant

State of California, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Operations & Maintenance Excellence

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

1988

Plant of the Year (Less Than 10 MGD)

California Water Pollution Control Association San Francisco Bay Section

Commendation for outstanding job in the Development and Operation of the Sewage Treatment Facility
City of Pleasanton

1989

National Award Finalist for Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations & Maintenance

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Resolution of Appreciation for Operations Staff

Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency

Operations & Maintenance Excellence (Large Secondary Plant)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

1991

Safety Program
California Water Pollution Control Association San Francisco Bay Section

1992

Operations & Maintenance Excellence (Large Secondary Plant)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

Richard Cooper, Mechanical Technologist of the Year

California Water Pollution Control Association

1st Place – Best of Class, Water Conservation Booth
Alameda County Fair

1993

Appreciation Plaque (Contributions to Scouting)

Boy Scout Troop 905

1995

Safety Program
California Water Environment Association San Francisco Bay Section

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
Presented by Government Finance Officers Association

1996

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
Government Finance Officers Association

Trailblazer

The United Way, Alameda County

1997

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
Government Finance Officers Association

Public Education Award, Small Budget

(For Earth Day/Pollution Prevention '97) California Water Environment Association San Francisco Bay Section

Public Education Award, Individual Achievement

(Danielle Schauben, Hardyan Hendarto, Stefanie Olson) California Water Environment Association San Francisco Bay Section

National Pollution Prevention Week 1997

(Exemplary Work and Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout this Year California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control)

Public Education Award, small budget

California Water Environment Association, San Francisco Bay Section

1998

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
Government Finance Officers Association

Bronze Partner Award for Outstanding Support
Dublin Partners in Education

National Pollution Prevention Week 1997

(Exemplary Work and Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout the Year) California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

General Managers

1953 - 2003

General Manager	Dates of Service	Years
<i>Richard Dombrock</i>	April 17, 1953 to March 1960	7 years
<i>Richard A. Wolverton</i>	March 28, 1960 to December 1960	9 months
<i>John Wright</i>	January 1961 to February 1964	3 years
<i>Phil Phillips, acting GM</i>	February 1964 to March 1964	2 months
<i>William Olson</i>	March 1964 to March 21, 1967	3 years
<i>Phil Phillips, acting GM</i>	March 22, 1967 to August 7, 1967	4.5 months
<i>Paul Ryan</i>	August 8, 1967 to October 1989	22 years
<i>Robert Beebe</i>	November 1989 to June 2001	12 years
<i>Bert Michalczyk</i>	June 2001 to Present, as GM with the District since 1990	2+ years

1999**Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

Presented by Government Finance Officers Association

Project of the Year, Clean Water Revival

WaterReuse Association of California

Innovation Award

(Recycling for Groundwater Replenishment & Puttin' on the Green Landscape Irrigation)
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

National Pollution Prevention Week

(Exemplary Work and Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout this Year)
California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

Plant of the Year, Less Than 10 MGD

California Water Environment Association San Francisco Bay Section

Research Achievement of the Year

(Clean Water Revival Groundwater Replenishment System Performance and Reliability Evaluation)
California Water Environment Association San Francisco Bay Section

2000**National Pollution Prevention Week**

2000
(Exemplary Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout the Year)
California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

Certificate of Appreciation

(Outstanding Support During the Installation Open House)
Parks Reserve Forces Training Area

Holiday Food Drive

(WWTP Collecting 152 pounds of food and/or dollars)
Alameda County Community Food Bank

Holiday Food Drive

(DO Collecting 108 pounds of food and or dollars)
Alameda County Community Food Bank

Water Management Gold Star Certification

(Maximize Conservation and Efficient Use of Water)
Association of California Water Agencies

First Place, Most Educational Invited Exhibit

Alameda County Fair, Family Fun For Everyone

2001

Certificate of Achievement, Excellence in Financial Reporting
Government Finance Officers Association

Energy Conservation Commitment

(Awarded to WWTP, DO & Field Ops)
Pacific Gas & Electric Company

National Pollution Prevention Week 2001

(Exemplary Work and Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout this Year)
California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

1st Place— Appearance, Fair Booth

Alameda County Fair

1st Place— Educational Value, Fair Booth

Alameda County Fair

2002**National Pollution Prevention Week 2002**

(Exemplary Work and Efforts in Pollution Prevention Throughout this Year)
California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Education Award, small budget

California Water Environment Association, San Francisco Bay Section

2003**Recognized for "Ten years of commitment to drinking water excellence"**

American Water Works Association Research Foundation, Advancing the Science of Water

Award of Excellence for Innovation in Human Resources

Northern California Chapter of the International Public Management Association

DISTRICT AWARDS THROUGH THE YEARS**Board of Directors****1953 - 2003****Boardmember**

James Glenn
Foster Chappelle
Adolph Otto
Betty Walser
Lawrence Wilson
Robert Ake
Ronald Perry
James Gray
Robert Dunivan
Denis Sherry
Don Day

Dates of**Service**

1953-64
1953-62
1953-62
1961-62
1961-68
1962-64
1962-63
1962-68
1963-66
1964-66
1964-66

Byron Athan
James Nelson
Robert Dunivan
Jane Kolher
Thomas Schweser
Ann Jolley
Richard Fahey
Richard Schumacher
Lila Euler
Ronald Hyde
Charles Ladner
Joseph Covello
Diane Schinnerer
Dennis Jeffery

1966-73
1966-73
1966
1967-68
1968-71
1968-79
1968-88
1971-74
1973-80
1973-77
1974-79
1977-94
1979-83
1979-83

Ronald Noble
Wallace Duncan
Donald Schinnerer
Patricia Visher
Dennis Jeffery
Jeffrey Hansen
G.T. (Tom) McCormick
Kenneth Caldwell
Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold
James Kohnen
Cynthia Jones
Richard Rose
Daniel Scannell
Thomas Ford

1980-84
1983-87
1983-92
1983
1984-85
1985-
1987-
1988-91
1992-2000
1992-2000
1994-2002
2000-
2000-
2002-

Documenting History is a Team Effort

A special thanks to the individuals who not only helped shape the District, but have also shared their memories with us:

Robert "Bob" Anderson	Field Operations Supervisor, with the District since 1977.
Robert "Bob" Beebe	General Manager from 1989 to 2001
Joe Covello	Director on the Board from 1977 to 1994
Richard "Dick" Fahey	Director on the Board from 1968 to 1988
Sheldon Jones	Construction Inspector with the District since 1977
Craig Lawson	Conducted sewer and water rate studies for the District for 26 years
John Mauck	Engineering Services Representative with the District since 1977
Dave Petersen	LAVWMA Senior Mechanic, with the District since 1983
Phil Phillips	District's first professional Fire Chief from 1961 to 1987 (he also served as interim General Manager in 1964 and 1967 and briefly as Chief Financial Officer)
Paul Ryan	General Manager from 1967 to 1989
Robert "Bob" Swanson	Operations Manager from 1972 to 1999
Howard Yamamoto	Administrative Analyst, with the District since 1970
Chris Davenport	Construction Manager, The Covello Group
Rick Cooper	Senior Project Coordinator, with the District since 1974

A special thanks to those who listened to the memories, retrieved historical data and wrote the story:

Margaret Atkinson	Administrative Assistant, with the District since 1996
Aaron Johnson	Engineering Technician, with the District since 2003
Jaclyn Moy	Technical Editor, with the District since 2002
Sylvia Ramos	Intern, with the District since 2001
Kristi Scheuller	Graphics Technician, with the District since 1989

For more information about the District, please visit our web site at www.dsrds.com.



Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors:

Richard W. Rose	President
Daniel J. Scannell	Vice President
Jeffrey G. Hansen	Director
G.T. (Tom) McCormick	Director
Thomas W. Ford	Director

DSRSD: The First 50 Years