

# ON TAP

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
2024



## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

### MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Over the years, TCWD's service area and its customers have been impacted by natural disasters, including floods, wildfires, earthquakes and drought. While we often can't stop these events from happening, we can reduce the damages. To make our community as safe as possible, we're updating our Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). The updated plan will help our community assess the potential for future disasters, take steps to prepare for them, and make us eligible for additional funding from the federal government. Our updated MJHMP will cover four major topics:

- Summarize the natural and human-caused hazards that pose a threat to our community
- Look at how our community members, buildings and infrastructure are vulnerable to these hazards
- Outline a Hazard Mitigation Strategy, with specific policy recommendations for future actions to help reduce the threat from these hazards
- Set maintenance procedures for the plan, keeping it current in the face of changing conditions

### PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

TCWD is preparing the MJHMP update with the assistance of Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and support from key stakeholders and technical consultants. Community input is vital to ensure our plan reflects local opinions, concerns, and goals. We have identified a variety of ways for customers to get involved and stay informed.

### TAKE THE SURVEY

Learn more and take an online survey to share your thoughts about the plan:  
[www.tcwd.ca.gov/district-services/engineering/hazard-mitigation-plan](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov/district-services/engineering/hazard-mitigation-plan)

## MAKE SURE FATS, OILS AND GREASE DON'T CLOG UP YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS

Keep fats, oils and grease (FOG) off the guest list so you don't get caught with a clog this holiday season. Pouring FOG down the drain or into the garbage disposal can result in blocked pipes, messy backups in your home and even sewage spills. Prevent these substances from entering your plumbing to protect your pipes and safeguard our environment. Always place the items below into the trash—not down the drain.



A fatberg caused by fats, oils and grease (FOG)



Meat drippings



Gravy



Cooking oil



Bacon grease



Sour cream



Salad dressing and mayonnaise



Butter, margarine, shortening and lard





TCWD staff cleans up a sewer spill using the vactor truck. Always dispose of fats, oils and grease in the trash (not down the drain) to help prevent spills and keep our community clean.

## EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

# VACTOR TRUCK SERVES AS POWERFUL TOOL IN TCWD'S FLEET

It's hard to miss TCWD's vacuum truck (commonly known as a Vactor truck or Sucker truck) driving by or doing its job in your neighborhood. It weighs over 65,000 pounds and resembles an enormous shop-vac on wheels. It sucks liquids, sludge and debris from below ground and can also jet water under high pressure. Simply put, the Vactor is the most complex and versatile piece of equipment in the District's fleet.

The most common uses of the District's Vactor involve maintenance of the sanitary sewer system. For example, a large hose on a boom above the truck can extend down into manholes or wet wells up to 25 feet deep and pull up slurry with the aid of vacuum suction created inside the 2,400-gallon aluminum tank resting on the back of the Vactor. To maintain a clean sewer collection system, the Vactor carries 1,500 gallons of water and up to 800 feet of high-pressure hose to jet sewer lines between manholes and avoid blockages.

With so much rugged equipment and technology on board, it's not surprising that Vactor trucks are often the most expensive part of a utility's fleet. TCWD's Vactor was purchased in 2019 for \$500,000. If the same vehicle were purchased today, it would cost nearly \$700,000. The District will weigh several factors, including the cost of maintenance and repairs, in deciding when and how to replace this critical asset.

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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## KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS



Stay in touch! Register for email updates from TCWD. Sign up at [www.tcwd.ca.gov/email](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov/email).

## DROPCOUNTR HELPS TCWD CUSTOMERS STOP LEAKS

TCWD customers using the Dropcountr app have identified and fixed slab leaks and other water leaks in their homes, saving hundreds of gallons of water. The free app allows you to monitor your water usage and receive leak notifications. Sign up today to stay alert for leaks. Enter your TCWD account details at [dropcountr.com](http://dropcountr.com) to get started. Need help? Contact us at **(949) 858-0277** or [customerservice@tcwd.ca.gov](mailto:customerservice@tcwd.ca.gov).

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