



Living Green

Protecting our community's health and the environment by providing solid waste and sewer collection services



Costa Mesa Sanitary District
(949) 645-8400
www.cmsdca.gov

Summer 2015
Quarterly Newsletter

Costa Mesa Sanitary District using tablet technology to improve wastewater collection system

By Scott Carroll, General Manager

In 2011, the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) implemented a paperless agenda program by using iPad tablets to enhance Board of Directors meetings. (The story was featured in Nov.-Dec. 2011 California Special District Magazine.) Four years later, tablet technology has evolved and is now suited to support field activities. CMSD is utilizing the latest technology by expanding tablet use for asset management. CMSD reviewed

many tablets and platforms and decided to deploy the Microsoft Surface Pro3 tablet because it appeared to be the best suited for field use and is compatible with Windows-based software. Employing the use of field tablets will enable the maintenance crews to securely access electronic maps, work orders, and other CMSD network resources. CMSD's fleet was equipped with mounting hardware that enables the tablets to be safely and securely fastened in vehicles while field staff conduct their tasks.

Field staff are no longer required to search through large sewer and storm drain atlas maps or carry large binders of work orders. The tablets provide access to CMSD's Cityworks asset management software system powered by mapping software ArcGIS from Esri. All of the information staff needs is at their fingertips. Maintenance crews clean over 100 miles of pipeline a year, so access to CMSD's asset management system gives them important

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Organics Kitchen Pails

Collecting your food scraps is easy!

Collect food scraps in your kitchen pail. You may choose to line your pail with newspaper or compostable trash bags. Empty kitchen pails into your organics cart and then roll it to the curb on your collection day.

Kitchen pails will be available at no charge to residents beginning **Monday, June 22, 2015** at District Headquarters, located at **628 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa** (next to DMV). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Limited quantities are available; pails will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Kitchen pails are limited to one pail per resident.

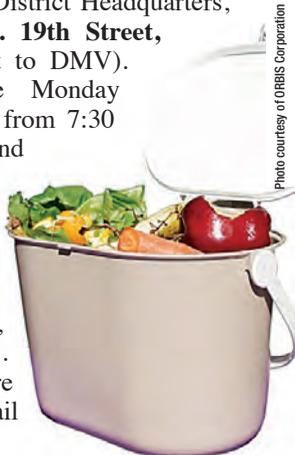


Photo courtesy of CRBS Corporation

What goes into the new organics recycling cart?

The Costa Mesa Sanitary District's new organics recycling program is beginning. Carts are being delivered beginning on Monday, June 22 and continuing through Friday, August 14. Refer to the map on the inside pages to learn when you can expect to receive your new cart.

Once your organics cart has been delivered, you can start using it! Clip and save the chart on this page and post it near your carts or in your kitchen.

Initially, each household is receiving one 64-gallon organics cart. This is being provided in addition to your two recycling/waste carts. After August 14, 2015, you can request a second organics cart at no addi-

tional cost. If you need a third organics cart or a third recycling/waste cart, there will be a fee of \$8 per cart per month. To request an additional organics cart, please contact CR&R Customer Service at (949) 646-4617.

Your current service day will not change. All of your carts should be placed at curbside no later than 6:30 a.m. with the handles and wheels facing toward your home. Please place carts side by side approximately 1 foot apart and at least 3 feet from any obstructions, such as parked cars, trees, and mailboxes.

Learn more about CMSD's organics recycling program at www.cmsdca.gov/organics.



Organics Cart

clip & save



Yard

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Prunings
- Flowers



Kitchen

- Fruit
- Bread
- Fish
- Meat
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- FOG (Fats, Oil, Grease)
- Compostable Bags



Place All Other Items In The Recyclables/Waste Cart



- Glass (beverage, liquor, soda, juice, wine and jars)
- Metal (aluminum and tin)
- Plastics #1- #7
- Paper & Cardboard Products
- Ceramic
- Food Trays
- Coat Hangers
- Tupperware Containers
- Mirrors
- Diapers
- Plastic Plates
- Styrofoam



PRESORTED
STANDARD
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PERMIT NO. 220

Costa Mesa Sanitary District
628 W. 19th Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-2716

Proposed microbeads ban

The District supports AB 888 (Bloom) – Plastic Microbeads Ban. This bill would greatly assist in the reduction of microplastic bead pollution in our oceans, as well as the environmental and health hazards associated with these beads.

Plastic microbeads are used in many personal care and cleaning products, such as facial and body scrubs, soap, and even toothpaste. A single product can contain as many as 350,000 plastic microbeads. In the San Francisco Bay area alone, scientists estimate that 417 million plastic microbeads are released into the bay every day. Products that contain plastic microbeads are designed to be washed down the drain, but plastic

microbeads are not recoverable through most wastewater treatment technologies and subsequently can end up in our rivers, lakes, and oceans, where they contaminate our marine and fresh water environments.

Studies indicate that plastic microbeads will attract and absorb toxins in surrounding waters and can be mistaken for food by marine wildlife. Once ingested, they can accumulate and move up the food chain to humans. This is a potentially harmful health issue.

AB 888 would reduce the problem at the source by prohibiting all plastic microbeads in personal care and cleaning products and favoring nature-made alternative ingredients, such as apricot shells, jojoba beans, sea salt, and sand, that are already widely available in natural products. AB 888 is widely regarded amongst stakeholders as the model policy that will not only result in a cleaner environment but will also reduce a health hazard to humans and our marine and aquatic wildlife.



Image courtesy of 5 Gyres



© iStock.com | Andrey Popov

Tips for hiring the right plumber

Tip 1: Get Several Quotes

CMSD recommends that you obtain at least three different quotes from licensed plumbers. Overcharging or unnecessary work will cost you! Make sure the plumber gives you a quote sheet that includes the scope of work, hours for completion, and total cost. Do not sign *anything*, even if the plumber tells you he cannot guarantee the quote without your initials or signature. Get clarification if you do not understand the services being described and proposed.

Tip 2: Obtain a "Before" Video

When a plumber is recording your sewer lateral, be sure to tell him that you want to receive a copy of the video. The plumber will charge you a fee, but up to 50% of the video fee qualifies for reimbursement if you participate in the Sewer Lateral Assistance Program (SLAP). If the plumber tells you he can't provide you a recorded video, then find

a plumber who can. Keep a copy of the video and send it to CMSD.

Tip 3: Contact CMSD Expert Staff

Send your "before" video to CMSD where our staff will watch the video and call you with recommendations on the proper course of action. CMSD staff have years of experience in the sewer industry, and they can help you make the right decision about repairing your sewer lateral. If you are unsure or don't understand what the plumber is suggesting, please contact CMSD staff for assistance. CMSD staff will give you their advice and may suggest alternative methods. CMSD staff are just a phone call away!

CMSD encourages residents to follow these tips when participating in the SLAP. For more information about the SLAP, please visit CMSD's website at www.cmsdca.gov or call the CMSD office at (949) 645-8400.

Have you visited our organics recycling website?

We know many of you have questions about the new organics recycling program, so we didn't mean to confuse you in our last newsletter where we printed the website link incorrectly in one location. The correct link is: www.cmsdca.gov/organics.

Since organics recycling carts are being delivered, now would be a great time to watch our short how-to video. In less than five minutes, you'll get step-by-step instructions, see what does and doesn't go into the organics cart, learn how to prepare kitchen scraps and yard debris, see how to use the kitchen pail, and find out where to purchase compostable food scrap bags. You'll also begin to understand why CMSD is part of this innovative program and how it helps our community and our state achieve waste diversion goals. Just go to: www.cmsdca.gov/organics.



Tablet technology ...

(Continued from Page 1)

information, such as the most recent cleaning date, notes about obstructions (if any), pipeline length and conditions of material, pipeline and manholes, and CCTV observations. The Cityworks system empowers the crews to access work orders, maintenance history, and key performance indicators. With a click of a button, staff can query specific data in the field, such as pipeline condition, maintenance history, photos, lift station run times, and asset lifecycles. The tablets can be removed from inside vehicle cabs and used in the field to take pictures, open and close work orders, take notes, send emails, search for reports, or log inspections, among other things.

The cost to design, procure, install, and maintain a mobile data network, which includes three field tablets, was \$65,100 for the first year and \$13,000 annually for general support. We believe this investment has improved and will continue to enhance operational efficiencies and help to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and costly repairs in the future.

For more information or to ask questions about CMSD's tablet program, please email Scott Carroll at scarroll@cmsdca.gov.



QUOTES
REQUOTED

Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.

W. H. Auden, 1907-1973
Anglo-American Poet

Sewer Lateral Assistance Program

Helping homeowners with sewer maintenance costs

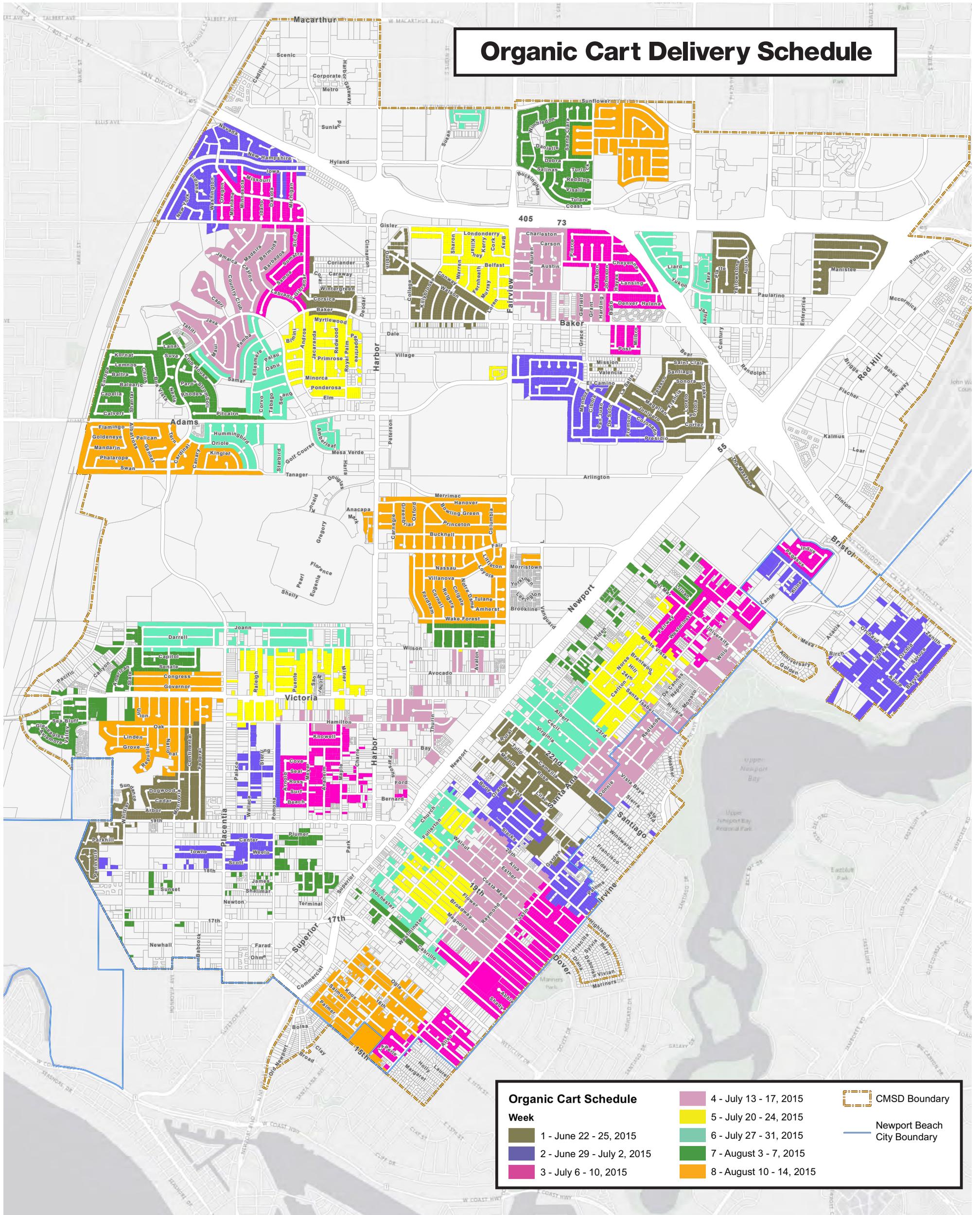
The Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) encourages residents to participate in the District's Sewer Lateral Assistance Program (SLAP). The SLAP is a financial incentive program that provides monetary compensation to residents for maintaining or repairing their sewer lateral lines. The lateral sewer line runs from the outside of your home to the point of connection with the CMSD sewer line (most commonly in the center of the street). Without regular maintenance, your sewer lateral can become blocked and

cause raw sewage to back up into your house and/or the street. The most common cause of damage to the lateral line is roots.

To encourage homeowners to check their sewer laterals for potential blockages before they become a problem, CMSD will reimburse the homeowner 50% of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$1,100 per residential parcel.

In order to qualify for reimbursement, homeowners must follow the program guidelines: www.cmsdca.gov/index.php/departments/sewer/sewer-lateral-assistance-program. If you have questions or do not have internet access, please call (949) 645-8400.

Organic Cart Delivery Schedule



Organic Cart Schedule		
Week	4 - July 13 - 17, 2015	CMSD Boundary
	5 - July 20 - 24, 2015	Newport Beach City Boundary
	6 - July 27 - 31, 2015	
	7 - August 3 - 7, 2015	
	8 - August 10 - 14, 2015	

Make your home a toxic-free home

Minimizing toxic, poisonous, corrosive, and flammable products in your home and removing unneeded products makes your home and our community safer. Follow these steps to reduce the toxins in your home:

- Whenever possible, use hard work instead of chemicals. Rather than a toxic and smelly “no-scrub” bathtub cleaner, use a milder soap and a scrub brush—and your muscles, of course! You can also look online for recipes to make your own non-toxic cleaners at home.
- Choose water-based products when available, such as latex paint. Not only is latex paint non-toxic, but you can also clean up your brushes and trays with water. This means that you won’t need toxic paint thinners, either.
- Use up what you already have. Don’t buy more chemicals when what you have at home can do the job. Check the cupboards and shelves before you head to the store.
- Purchase only the amount you need. If you will be painting the edge of a bulletin board, you won’t need a gallon of



paint! Choose the right size container for the job you need to do.

- Dispose properly of unneeded household hazardous waste (HHW). The CMSD sponsors a FREE Door-to-Door HHW Collection program for individuals who may not have the ability to recy-

cle or dispose of their hazardous materials at Orange County’s HHW Collection Centers, which are open year-round. To be eligible for the door-to-door service, residents must be 62 years of age or older or be a person with a certified disability. To arrange for service, eligible residents must call CR&R Customer Service at (949) 646-4617. Other residents can drop off HHW at no charge at one of the four Orange County HHW Collection Centers. The nearest Center is located in Huntington Beach at 17121 Nichols Street (use Gate 6). Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed on major holidays and rainy days). For more information, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com/hazardous.

Heavy trash? Schedule a bulky waste pickup!

If you have bulky trash that won’t fit into your curbside carts, we can help. CMSD customers can request convenient curbside collection of large or bulky items at their home. Residents are eligible for three (3) complimentary pickups per year. There is a limit of 10 items per

call, or collections can be combined for a total of 30 items per calendar year.

To schedule, please call CR&R Customer Service at (949) 646-4617, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Residents must provide a detailed list of items to be collected. Please note, drivers will not collect any items not specified in advance.

Residents who use dumpsters at their property are not eligible for this program.

Before you dispose of usable items, consider donating them to local charities. You can receive a receipt for tax purposes, assist those less fortunate, and practice “Reuse and Recycle.”



CMSD Board of Directors

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We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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Ever notice graffiti on any of the trash cans in your neighborhood? Report it with the District’s new app!

The CMSD is the first Independent Special District to provide a customized mobile app for our residents! In developing the app, our goal was to provide residents with convenient access to District information on their smartphones. The app features easy-to-use widgets. Using the app, residents can find information on District programs and events. In addition, residents can report issues directly to the District through the GOREquest system and then track the status of those issues. Issues can be reported anonymously if preferred.

The free app is available for download at the iTunes App Store or the Google Play Store. Simply search for “Costa Mesa Sanitary District.”



Employee Spotlight



The District would like to recognize Wendy H. Davis, Finance Manager, in this quarter’s employee spotlight. Wendy started as a contractor and quickly proved how valuable she was to the District. She became a full-time employee in June of 2014. Since then, Wendy has had many accomplishments. As Finance Manager, she is responsible for financial planning, budgeting, accounting, data processing, revenue administration, purchasing, special assessments, and service charges for the District. Wendy oversees the Sewer Lateral Assistance Program and the Permits and Finance offices. She developed the FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets and completes the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, as well as the quarterly budget reports for the Board of Directors. She has also updated the District’s financial system so that CMSD can accept credit card payments.

Wendy is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. She graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a BS in Business Administration, with emphasis in finance, accounting, and management information systems. Wendy began working for a CPA firm specializing in governmental auditing. She has spent the last 25 years working in local governments, special districts, and school district finance departments.

On behalf of the District, Wendy has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers.

Congratulations, and thank you for all you do, Wendy!