

# BEAUMONT WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Mail-in Ballot for Sewering Authority

All registered voters living in the Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District ("District") within Riverside County will be receiving a ballot by mail from the Registrar of Voters and asked to vote "yes" or "no" to authorize the District to make application to Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Riverside County to exercise the District Latent (dormant) Sewer authority within the County of Riverside within the District service area. This will be on the ballot as Measure "B." Voting will be through a "MAIL-IN BALLOT"; there will be **NO VOTING AT POLLING PLACES**.

Voters should mark the ballot and return it via mail to the Registrar of Voters so that it is received by 8:00 P.M. local time on September 25, 2007 in order to be counted. The District selected the Mail-in Ballot to save the rate payers from the more costly process of voting at a polling place.

This election is required by state statutes.

### Measure "B"

Passage of Measure "B" subject to the approval of Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) would allow the District to provide sewer service within its boundaries. Sewer service could include construction of sewers; oversight, approval and management of on-site waste disposal systems; or other sewage systems that are deemed necessary to protect water quality.

**YOU ARE NOT VOTING FOR SEWERS**; you are only voting to authorize the District to make application to LAFCO to active its dormant sewer powers as needed to protect groundwater quality. Any approval for sewer installations by the District will require separate approval of the Board of Directors of the District.

The issue of whether sewers will be installed in Cherry Valley or other alternative measures is being evaluated through the District's Facilities Planning Process and the Environmental Review (CEQA) process. These documents are nearing completion and will be available for state and public review by early Fall. The Facilities Plan will identify the most cost effective methods of protecting your drinking water quality. The Environmental Review Process will identify the most environmentally acceptable methods and determine the appropriate mitigation measures that will be necessary to implement the best alternatives.

### The Water Quality Problem Affects Everyone in the District

A study conducted by Wildermuth Environmental, Inc. (WEI), a consultant, identified septic tank systems (on-site waste disposal systems) in Cherry Valley as polluting the District's groundwater supply with nitrates and other trace contaminants. Nitrate concentrations in some of the District's water supply wells have approached the State and Federal limit. Excessive nitrate in drinking water can cause "blue-baby syndrome" in infants. If septic tanks are allowed to continue, the WEI report indicates the District's entire groundwater supply will eventually become polluted. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors concurred with this fact and established Ordinance 871 "to prevent this potential public health hazard from becoming a public health emergency."

Because this is a groundwater quality problem that **AFFECTS EVERYONE IN THE DISTRICT, ALL QUALIFIED REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT ARE BEING ASKED TO VOTE ON THIS MEASURE.**

## What Can Be Done to Protect My Water Quality?

Based on the Facilities Planning work done to date and an extensive evaluation of alternatives, the most cost effective way of stopping the pollution is to provide sewers and eliminate the conventional septic tanks and on site waste disposal systems. To keep costs to a minimum, sewers are proposed only in a portion of Cherry Valley Community of Interest (COI) at this time. See the attached map.

If you live in Cherry Valley outside of the area shown on the map, initial plans call for allowing you to keep your current on site disposal system. However, the District could require that you upgrade your on site disposal system to reduce the pollution it contributes.

As new homes are constructed, they would be required to connect to the sewer system or install more costly advanced on-site waste disposal systems depending on the individual location.

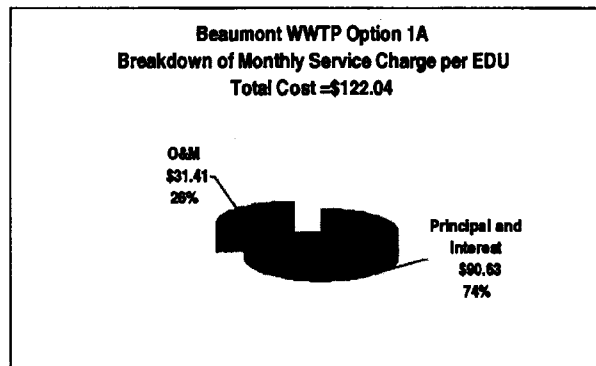
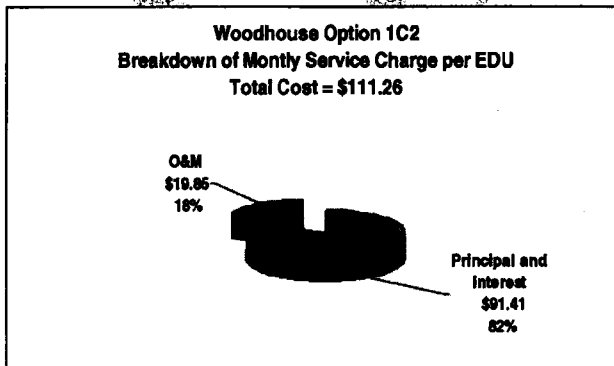
## Who Will Pay?

Initial plans provide that those occupied parcels located within the designated area of Cherry Valley COI shown on the map will be paying for the new sewer service. **IF YOU ALREADY HAVE SEWER SERVICE FROM THE CITY OF BEAUMONT YOU WILL NOT BE PAYING AGAIN** for sewers. If you are in Cherry Valley COI, but outside of the designated area to be sewered as shown on the attached map, you will not have to pay for sewers but you may be required to upgrade your septic tank to minimize its pollution impact.

The District has applied for a low interest loan from the State of California to fund the construction of the sewers in order to reduce the financial burden on the affected homeowners as much as possible.

## How Much Will It Cost Me?

Initial plans provide that if you are in the designated area in Cherry Valley Community of Interest to be sewered, you will be charged for sewer service on your regular water bill. Occupied parcels will pay approximately \$90 to \$95 dollars per month which will cover the cost of the sewer and waster water treatment plant construction and between \$19.00 and \$35.00 per month for operation and maintenance of the collection and treatment system depending on the alternative selected. Parcels with more than one dwelling will pay more. This cost may go down over time as more parcels are connected inside and outside of the current designated area. Below are two charts which show the breakdown of the monthly charge. The project's preferred option is the Woodhouse plant with City of Beaumont as a fallback.



## **What Will Happen To My Septic Tank?**

Initial plans provide that when construction of the sewers and treatment system is complete fully tested, and operational the District's contractor will be going to each occupied parcel and install a pipe from your house to the sewer in the street. Your septic tank or on site disposal system will be pumped out, filled with earth material and abandoned. The cost for this is included in the monthly charge shown above. **NO ADDITIONAL FEES OR CONNECTION CHARGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE PAID.**

## **Are There Any Alternatives?**

The District's engineering consultants evaluated 9 alternatives including alternatives which would use advanced on-site systems and small diameter septic tank effluent sewer systems. The two least costly alternatives are for the District to install sewers and either construct its own treatment plant or contract with the City of Beaumont for treatment.

### **NO SEWER PROJECT ALTERNATIVE**

If nothing were done, all of the groundwater would be polluted and would require expensive treatment at each well (wellhead treatment). This would be very expensive as specialized treatment is needed along with some means of disposing of the brine. Everyone in the District would be paying for this.

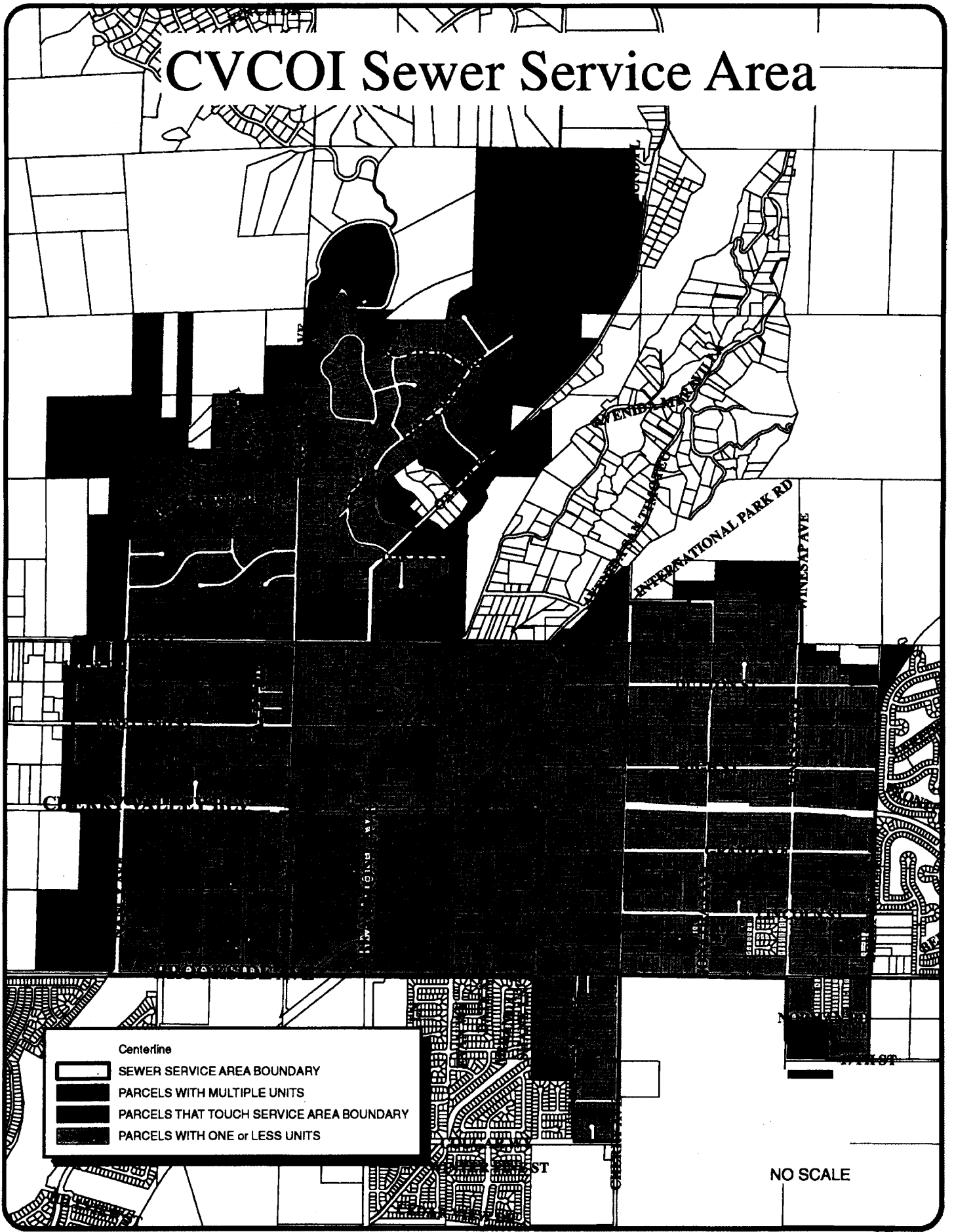
Furthermore, the regulatory agencies would not allow the groundwater to be polluted.

## **Where Can I get More Information?**

Information is available at the District Offices which includes a Facilities Plan and an Environmental Impact Report. The District anticipates placing this material on the District's web site: [www.bcvwd.org](http://www.bcvwd.org).

Customers can contact the General Manager, Mr. C. J. Butcher or the District Engineer, Mr. J. C. Reichenberger, PE at (951)-845-9581 with any questions.

# CVCOI Sewer Service Area



- Centerline
- SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
  - PARCELS WITH MULTIPLE UNITS
  - PARCELS THAT TOUCH SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
  - PARCELS WITH ONE or LESS UNITS

NO SCALE