

## **Q&A Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin (SASM) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Mill Valley School District (MVSD)**

**1. Q: Who is SASM?**

A: SASM is the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. They provide wastewater treatment services to its six member agencies: the City of Mill Valley, Tamalpais Community Services District, Almonte Sanitary District, Alto Sanitary District, Homestead Valley Sanitary District, and Richardson Bay Sanitary District. SASM is its own Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that has its own governing board and budget. The JPA contracts with the City of Mill Valley employees and they are housed within the City's Department of Public Works.

**2. Q: Who is the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and what is their role?**

A: BAAQMD was created in 1955 and they serve 9 counties in the Bay Area. The agency regulates air pollution and sets air quality standards. They have been working with SASM and MVSD to monitor air quality in the vicinity.

**3. Q: Why was SASM and BAAQMD invited to our Board of Trustee meeting?**

A: MVSD Trustees invited these organizations so that they could communicate information regarding their master plan construction project. They are making efforts to modernize their facility while creating as little impact as possible on the district.

**4. Q: What's new or different at the WWTP?**

A: According to Mark Grushayev, Wastewater Treatment Manager from SASM, the WWTP is aged and was last modified in the 1980s. They began an update project in April 2018 and expect to be finished by 2020. The delivery of new equipment to permanently reduce odors started at the end of September 2018.

**5. Q: How does the WWTP construction master plan project impact MVSD?**

A: The WWTP master plan impacts MVSD due to its proximity to MVSD facilities. Read SASM's [Master Plan](#) for more information.

**6. Q: What is SASM doing about the odor at the WWTP?**

A: The SASM board added a new odor control component to the first phase of the upgrade project. To accomplish this, the old air scrubber needs to continue working in the treatment plant within regulations and compliance of the BAAQMD, while the new system will be incorporated and ready for start up. The WWTP goal is to have this part of the project completed by the end of 2018, pending receipt of necessary permits.

**7. Q: How does air filtering work at the WWTP?**

A: Air filtering may be very complex in nature and in order to provide technical clarification, please contact [sasm@cityofmillvalley.org](mailto:sasm@cityofmillvalley.org) for more information.

**8. Q: How often are the emissions in the vicinity tested?**

A: Emissions inside the WWTP are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Air quality outside of the facility continues to be tested by BAAQMD to monitor air quality standards.

**9. Q: What is being done to reduce smell during regular school/business hours?**

A: Treatment staff have instituted operational changes shifting some treatment activities to alternate hours to reduce overlap during the school/business day while updating the facilities.

**10. Q: What were the results from BAAQMD's testing?**

A: BAAQMD reported that emission levels are safe and meet air quality standards. They will continue to administer air quality testing periodically.

**11. Q: Does SASM do any air testing?**

A: SASM staff check hydrogen sulfide levels at least twice a day at their facility in both stationary and mobile gas monitoring systems.

For more detailed information regarding the WWTP Master Plan and/or SASM, please contact:  
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For more detailed information regarding the BAAQMD and air testing, please contact:  
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