

UNION SANITARY DISTRICT COLLECTION SERVICES: FROM CURIOSITY TO CLARITY

NEAA26 PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION: VIDEO



National Environmental
Achievement
AWARDS

The Union Sanitary District (USD) Collection Services workgroup produced an educational video to explain the essential wastewater work happening throughout the community. Building on more than 100 years of service, the video showcases how staff maintain over 800 miles of pipes across 60 square miles, using specialized tools, planning, and inspections to keep wastewater contained and protect the environment.

This educational video highlights core work:

- 84-month maintenance cycles
- High-pressure cleaning
- Robotic camera inspections
- Pipe renewal by Trenchless Technologies

The Collection Services educational video displays the pride and professionalism of USD staff, demonstrating why USD maintains **one of California's lowest sewer spill rates.**

View our
educational
video here:





Transforming Public Understanding: A Collection Services Educational Video Initiative

Member Spotlight

Union Sanitary District's (USD's) Collection Services workgroup has created an educational video in response to public inquiries about the work they perform throughout the community. This comprehensive production highlights USD's key responsibilities in managing wastewater infrastructure - a critical role in pollution prevention and control.

For over 100 years, USD has provided essential wastewater services to the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City. The District's Collection Services staff works every day to provide this vital utility to customers while protecting the environment.

USD is responsible for maintaining over 800 miles of pipes throughout a 60 square-mile area. It takes a dedicated team of maintenance, construction, and support staff to ensure that wastewater continues to flow freely and stays where it belongs. USD's educational video showcases the various duties involved, including infrastructure assessment, project planning, and the use of specialized equipment.

The video demonstrates how USD implements advanced software to track the condition of underground sewer lines and allocate resources for maintenance or problem correction. These programs help staff prioritize maintenance activities and react quickly when issues are discovered. The District's 84-month cleaning and inspection schedule ensures that every inch of pipeline is assessed at least once every seven years.

Customers can see how staff use heavy-duty industrial vehicles equipped with high-pressure hoses to flush out debris that can cause stoppages. Once a line is cleaned, robotic cameras inspect and document issues such as damage from roots, corrosion, or blockages caused by fats, oils, and grease, also known as FOG. This data is used to plan future maintenance or repairs, with the goal to reduce spills.

The video also features innovative trenchless technology used to quickly repair and rehabilitate sewer lines. Instead of closing streets for days or months to excavate for traditional open trench repairs, this technology allows city streets to remain open with minor traffic control. This method creates a new "pipe within a pipe," extending the useful life of older pipelines by decades. When open trench pipe replacement is necessary, construction crews work carefully and quickly to minimize impacts to the public.

As the video demonstrates, USD's Collection Services workgroup implements the latest tools and equipment to ensure wastewater stays in the pipes and away from streets and

neighborhoods reducing potential pollution and disruption for customers. These efforts have helped Union Sanitary District achieve one of the lowest sewer spill rates statewide.