

TOMALES VILLAGE

COMMUNITY
SERVICES
DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2022 #44



Welcome Mary Halley, TVCSD General Manager

Mary Halley was born in San Francisco, lived in Lake Tahoe, Tiburon, & then in Marshall on Tomales Bay for most of her life. She received a degree in Business Administration from Sonoma State University. **She is a skilled project manager, water manager, & special district administrator & joined TVCSD in February 2022 in the part-time position as General Manager.** She also continues to serve in her current position as District Manager for the Muir Beach Community Service District in southern West Marin. Mary lives at her home in Marshall & in her spare time (which is little) she has raised & shown Great Pyrenees, loves to hike, garden, play piano, do

quilting, travel & spend holidays with her family. **Mary looks forward to working with the Tomales Village Board, staff & community helping to make progress towards their steady stewardship in a tradition of excellence & community spirit.**

Thank you Jose Ortiz, Retiring TVCSD General Manager

In December of 2015, **Jose Ortiz** was hired as TVCSD's GM to embark on a major transition to save staffing costs by 1/3rd & to increase agency transparency. Under Jose's leadership, staff, board & committees developed a 10-year financial plan & a 10-year Improvement Plan that guided our management of the sewer enterprise. **After 11 years without a rate increase, we implemented a modest 2-year rate increase to redress rising costs & payment of pre-existing debt. Cash reserves have increased & agency debt has declined.** Jose oversaw the CCTV collection system inspection throughout our service boundary area & discovered the **pipes are in excellent condition & will not require complete slip-lining as previously thought.** Despite the pandemic, **Jose oversaw the construction of a new & enlarged Gazebo at the Park** that TVCSD & key community members designed to be a centerpiece for future public enjoyment. Jose is retiring to enjoy more time traveling with his family. **TVCSD will remember his professionalism, congeniality, & engineering attention to our small, efficient special district.**

→ TVCSD supports voting YES on Measure A! Remember to vote on June 7th! (see Park news) ←

Message from Donna Clavaud, President, TVCSD Board of Directors

As I step up to assume my role as the TVCSD President, I am reminded of our mission & vision of a locally controlled special district that sustains a culture of accountability, responsibility & innovation as identified in our new 5-year Strategic & Succession Plan. Thanks to our consultant, Deborah Parrish, we have a clear plan in place to help guide our stewardship of our village sewer system & community park.

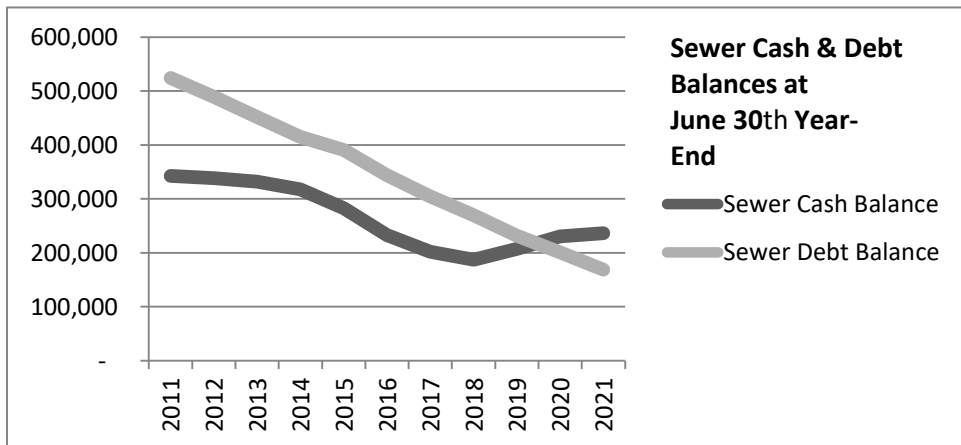
Moving forward, **our strategic goals include completion of open projects; review environmental concerns regularly; provide ongoing education for the Board of Directors, Staff, & community; & focus on practicing & communicating fiscal responsibility at all levels.**

We have identified our strengths, noted our weaknesses, & zeroed in on opportunities & threats to our resiliency & stability. And we have identified key objectives in each of these areas to capitalize, overcome, harvest & mitigate ideas for specific strategies & action steps to increase our sustainability.

How does this relate to things you care about? How do TVCSD successes make your life better? **What can you do to get involved? Get to know the TVCSD story. Come collaborate with us. Use your unique talents to help grow our special district to meet changing community needs.** Help us make it fun!

While our sewer system & community park were established in the 70's, it takes a vibrant village to keep making its own history. Everyone is welcome! I, for one, look forward to continued service in Tomales & I hope you will join us!

Financial Advisory Committee News, Melinda Bell, Chair



The sewer graph shows the amount of cash needed in order to pay the annual debt for sewer capital improvement projects prior to 2013.

However, the rate increases in 2018 & 2019 have enabled TVCSD to continue to repay our debt, & slowly rebuild our

cash reserves to maintain more stability. We will finish paying the debt from the solar panel project this year & the sewer system improvements by 2025.

At the Park, prior to the Measure A 1/4 cent sales tax for public parks and open space, we were dependent on donations, grassroots fundraising and grants, and could undertake very limited improvements. **Since 2013 with our annual Measure A allocations, we have been able to undertake major capital improvement**

projects to rebuild the park and meet new standards for public safety. The June 7 Special Election will offer voters an opportunity to **vote yes on Measure A to extend this small sales tax for an additional 10 years.**

Park Advisory Committee News, Dru Fallon O'Neill, Chair



TVCS D supports voting YES on Measure A!

Measure A protects the parks, open spaces, and agricultural lands that make Marin an extraordinary place to live, work, and play. Measure A's ¼ cent sales tax sustains **Tomales Community Park** and funds can't be used for any other purpose. **Remember to vote YES on June 7th!**

Tomales Community Park Volunteer Spring Cleanup Day: Saturday, May 14th 9 am - 2 pm Refreshments will be offered. **Join us for a lot of community spirit!** Bring your garden tools, a neighbor & a picnic lunch! (Photo: John Ward)

The Tomales Community Park is a labor of love, built in 1979, & acquired by TVCS D in 1998. Locals & visitors have access to playground areas, picnic tables, restrooms & a newly rebuilt gazebo, providing fun & relaxation to all who visit.

The main playground structure was built to scale of the Dutton House which once stood on the site, a nod to embracing our village history. **Community Volunteers assist with Park clean-up days, oversee private & public rentals, and serve on the Park Advisory Committee.** Assisting the TVCS D Board with governance, meets on the 4th Wednesday of most months at 5:30 pm at the Tomales Town Hall. **We invite you to join us!**

Tomales celebrates Founder's Day, a fun & popular event held on Labor Day Sunday. **The park is available to rent for private & public events. Tomales welcomes you to relax & play!**

Saveourwater.com is a good resource for water saving tips in this drought period. Here in Tomales, we have private wells. Judicious use of water as a precious commodity is our responsibility if we are to sustain basic needs.

TVCS D Mission Statement: The mission of the Tomales Village Community Services District, a non-profit public benefit corporation, is to enhance the quality of life with a commitment to the health of the community by providing dependable wastewater collection, treatment and reuse in an environmentally friendly manner, maintain safe and reliable recreational park facilities, and provide a welcoming forum for active community participation and input.

TVCS D Vision Statement: Strive to be a sustainable model district, environmentally conscious, safe, and reliable with long term goals of achieving financial stability and fostering cohesive community partnerships.

Park Statement of Purpose: The Park was created to provide a space for cultural, educational and community activities for persons and organizations in the community at large. It was created with the desire to engage only in activities that are charitable and educational, and to be equally available to all members of the community. For rental information, email admin@tomalescsd.ca.gov.

TOMALES VILLAGE



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Melinda Bell, CPA, Financials
Cynthia Hammond, Recording Secretary

District Office: 707-878-2767
Operator: Natural Systems Utilities (NSU)
Website: www.tomalescsd.gov
Newsletter: Donna Clavaud/Cynthia Hammond, editors

Tomales Village Community Services District Board and Advisory Committee Meetings: Meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend. Due to Covid-19, meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

TVCS D monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of month.
Meeting time begins at 7:00 pm.

Park Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month.
Meeting time begins at 5:30 pm at the Tomales Town Hall.

Finance Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Meeting time begins at 6:30 pm.