



The Stege Pipeline

Early Winter 2026 - The Super El Niño Edition!

The Stege Pipeline is back in your mailbox! Here is your Early Winter 2026 Super El Niño Update!

At the beginning of what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted a “very strong”, or “Super El Niño” season, this newsletter provides some information and helpful tips to get you through the next several months, hence, this very special edition of Stege’s Pipeline community newsletter.

Inside, you’ll find key district updates, vital seasonal maintenance tips to keep Stege’s infrastructure running safely through the wet season, and practical ways to protect the local environment together this winter.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping the community safe, resilient, and sustainable—stay dry, enjoy the read, and let us know your thoughts.



Spotlight on Stege in the Community



Stege Sanitary District is once again proud to partner with a local Food Bank in collecting non-perishable food items for community members during the holidays.

Donations can be brought to the Stege office at 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530 from NOW until December 31st.

Collection barrels are in the lobby now.



Stege Sanitary District is running its Annual Holiday Toy Drive from NOW until December 31st, 2026.

The District will gratefully accept any new, and unwrapped toys at the Stege administrative office for distribution by two local Fire Departments during the holidays.

Donations can be delivered to 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530. (510) 524-4667

Safe Winter Plumbing 101

While cooking, Fats, Oils & Grease are hot and in liquid form. They can move down the drain easily.

DON'T BE TEMPTED!

As Fats, Oils & Grease cool, they harden and can clog plumbing and sewer pipes.

REMEMBER! Do NOT Flush:

- * Cotton Balls, * Swabs, * Tissues,
- * BandAids, * Paper Towels,
- * Disinfecting Wipes,
- * Expired/Unused Medications,
- * Gift Wrap, * Tape, * Ribbons & Bows,
- * Cat litter (even flushable clay),
- * Cooking Grease,
- * Coffee Grounds,
- * Sauces & Lard

The Golden Rule for Winter Plumbing:

If it isn't human waste or standard toilet paper, put it directly in the trash or compost to keep cold main lines clear all season long.

THE PROBLEM
(Without Prevention)



SEWAGE OVERFLOW

UNCOMFORTABLE BACKUP

MUNICIPAL SEWER MAIN

PREVENTION STEP

Installing a **BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE** on your property can reduce the amount of potential **SEWAGE BACKFLOW** during **HEAVY PERIODS OF RAIN**.

This is a **SIMPLE STEP** you can take now to **PREVENT** an uncomfortable **SEWAGE BACKUP** in the future.

RECOMMENDED

- CONSULT A LICENSED PLUMBER
- CHECK LOCAL CODES & INCENTIVES
- SIMPLE STEP, LONG-TERM BENEFITS
- DO IT NOW, BEFORE THE RAIN

THE SOLUTION
(With Prevention)



✓ FLOW BLOCKED

✓ CLEAN DRAINS

✓ HOME PROTECTED

MUNICIPAL SEWER

What Exactly Is El Niño, and what makes this one so special?

Understanding the Power of a Super El Niño

If you've been hearing whispers about a "Super El Niño" in the weather forecasts, you might be wondering how an ocean current thousands of miles away connects back to our local communities.

At its core, El Niño is a natural climate cycle where trade winds weaken, allowing warm water to pool across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. This single shift alters jet streams and storm tracks across the globe. But what makes a Super El Niño different is sheer scale. During a super event, equatorial Pacific temperatures spike 2°C or more above average, supercharging the cycle's intensity.

For local water management, infrastructure, and community preparedness, these mega-events act as a stress test. When warm ocean water shifts global weather patterns, it can trigger extreme hydrological extremes—transitioning regions rapidly from severe, parched drought conditions to intense, concentrated atmospheric rivers and heavy downpours.

For a sanitary district and local infrastructure agencies, understanding these macro-climatic shifts isn't just about meteorology; it's about proactive planning. High-intensity weather extremes test the limits of stormwater management, collection systems, and community resiliency. Staying informed on these global shifts helps us anticipate local infrastructure demands, protect public health, and keep our communities safe and resilient no matter what the skies bring.

Protect Your Property and the Bay with a \$0-Interest Loan

Property owners are responsible for their **Private Sewer Lateral (PSL)**—the pipe connecting your home to the main line. To help prevent leaks and protect the Bay, **Stege offers an interest-free loan up to \$30,000, repaid conveniently over 10 years on your property tax bill.** Visit stegesan.org/PSL or call (510) 524-4667 to get started today.

Protecting the San Francisco Bay starts right at your doorstep. By taking advantage of Stege Sanitary District's zero-interest PSL loan program to repair or replace aging sewer pipes, you can reduce rainwater from seeping into the community's wastewater system as Infiltration and Inflow (I&I). This simple upgrade prevents sewage overflows, protects local waterways, and eases strain on community infrastructure—making it easier than ever to invest in your home while doing your part for the environment.

Super El Niño calls for a SUPER FUN ZONE!

(A little bit bigger to keep you busy on a rainy day)



In the mood for a little organizing? Those empty toilet paper rolls make exceptional custom holders for keeping your tangled cord collections neat and tidy!

	7			2			4	6
	6					8	9	
2			8			7	1	5
	8	4		9	7			
7	1						5	9
			1	3		4	8	
6	9	7			2			8
	5	8					6	
4	3			8			7	

SUPER WORD SEARCH!

How many times can you find the following words throughout this newsletter?

El Niño	Sewer	Infrastructure
Super	Sanitary	District
Drain/Drains	Community	Pacific
Water	Winter	Storm/Stormwater
Stege	Plumbing	Safety/Safe

Answers to the Unscramble and Sudoku can be found on our PSL Loan page at: www.stegesan.org

WORD SCRAMBLE!
Unscramble These Words:
STRICTID
TALLERA
WEERS
EAGRES
ANDRAGIE
DIALSOPS
NEON LI
PERSU
TAREW
TEGES
REWITIN
CUMBILPN

Q: Why Did The Pipeline Apply For A Loan?

A: Because It Wanted To Get Its Fluid Assets In Order Before The Rainy Season!

- DIY Bird Feeder Ingredients:**
- 1 Toilet Paper Roll
 - 12" or more of String/Yarn
 - Peanut Butter
 - Bird Seed
 - A Sense of Humori!





Stege Sanitary District
7500 Schmidt Lane
El Cerrito, California 94530-0537

Our Mission

To protect public health and the environment for the communities the District serves through planning and operation of a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection system.



**Have a Sewer Problem or
Sewer Emergency?
Call Us First!
(510) 524-4667**