COLLECTION SYSTEM
Our combined sewer system collects wastewater from homes and businesses as well as stormwater runoff from streets. # corresponds to numbered stops on the tour

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is a department of the City and County of San Francisco that provides retail drinking water and wastewater services to San Francisco, wholesale water to three Bay Area counties, and green hydroelectric and solar power to San Francisco’s municipal departments. Our mission is to provide our customers with high quality, efficient and reliable water, power, and sewer services in a manner that is inclusive of environmental and community interests, and that sustains the resources entrusted to our care. We operate and maintain three wastewater treatment facilities and over 1,000 miles of sewer pipes. We work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to protect public health and the environment.

For more information, visit sfwater.org #sfsewer

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SOUTHEAST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROCESS

BAR SCREENS 1
Coarse and fine bar screens remove trash and debris (paper towels, plastic bags, rags, wood, etc.).

Trash, debris, and grit are removed from the bar screens and grit tanks and taken to the landfill.

Biosolids, or "cake", is loaded into trucks and used as landfill cover and also provides nutrients for non-food crops.

Biogas (methane) is produced as a byproduct, which is used for up to 30% of the plant’s power needs.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS 6
Sludge is heated to 95°F and micro-organisms break it down. This biological process takes 15-30 days.

Discharge
Treated waste (effluent) is released 800 feet into the Bay.

RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) 5
The treatment process generates biogas as a byproduct, which is used for up to 30% of the plant’s power needs.

The centrifuge spins digested sludge to dewater it and produce "biosolids."

DISINFECTION 2
Chlorine is added for disinfection and then neutralized with sodium bisulfite.

SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY
BIOGAS (METHANE)
BIOLOGICAL SOLIDS

ENGINE GENERATOR

DEWATERING 11
The centrifuge spins digested sludge to dewater it and produce "biosolids."

GAS COMBUSTION ENGINE

OXYGEN ADDED

HOT WATER (HEAT SOURCE FOR DIGESTER)

HOT WATER (HEAT SOURCE FOR DIGESTER)

HOT WATER BOILER

SCREENINGS

SCREENINGS

THICKENED ACTIVATED SLUDGE (TAS)

SLUDGE/SOLIDS

PRIMARY SLUDGE (SOLIDS)

WASTE ACTIVATED SLUDGE (WAS)

RETURN ACTIVATED SLUDGE (RAS)

OXYGEN ADDED

PLANT

CITY

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER

WASTEWATER
SOUTHEAST PLANT AT A GLANCE
- Located in Bayview
- Built in 1952
- San Francisco’s largest and oldest wastewater facility
- Treats 80% of the City’s flows
- Major upgrades in progress as part of the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP)

SOUTHEAST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOUR

TIPS TO KEEP OUR SEWER LINES CLEAN
- When it comes to your toilet: Remember the “3 Ps” – Poop, Paper, and Pee!
- Please don’t flush sanitary wipes or so-called “flushable wipes”. Only flush toilet paper down the pipes.
- Floss more often! But put dental floss in the trash, not the toilet.
- Take expired, unwanted medicines to a local drug store for safe disposal—fish in the bay and ocean will appreciate it.
- Never pour cooking oil or grease down the drain. Find a drop-off location near you at sfgreasecycle.org.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, and litter from clogging storm drains—this can cause flooding on your street.
- Call 311 to report clogged catch basins, illegal dumping, and sewer overflows.

THANK YOU