



# ...In Mean Out Clean.

**T**hat's the motto of CFPUA's wastewater treatment facility; wastewater comes in mean but goes out clean.

Do you know what **wastewater** is? It's the "used" water from homes and businesses that's flushed down toilets and drains. This used water needs to be cleaned before it can be put back into rivers, streams and other water sources. Sewer systems give wastewater a "ride" to the treatment plant where the cleanup action begins.



**Wastewater treatment** is the process of cleaning the water that was used in homes, schools, offices and other places. This process helps get rid of harmful pollutants and bacteria so the water is safe to use again. The beaker on the left contains wastewater, called **influent**, that comes into the treatment plant - kind of gross, isn't it?

The beaker on the right contains water that has been treated, also called **effluent**. It's a whole lot cleaner after treatment.

CFPUA treats over 16 1/2 million gallons of wastewater each day. Certified wastewater treatment operators run the plant and equipment used in the treatment process while utility workers make sure the sewer system is working properly to keep the wastewater flowing. Crews use cameras, CCTV (closed circuit television) and other equipment to inspect the inside of the sewer system to make sure there are no blockages or obstructions which can cause sewer overflows. Things like dirt, sand, rags, grease, baby wipes and tree roots can cause blockages. In some instances crews use a special truck called a **vactor truck** to clean out the sewer lines or clean up spills. It works like a big vacuum cleaner to suck debris out of the sewer. You can learn more about CCTV, wastewater treatment and sewer line maintenance by going to our web-site [www.cfpua.org](http://www.cfpua.org). Once there, click on Public Info/ Education & Outreach/Departmental Job Shadowing.



vactor truck

Wastewater treatment plants work hard to keep water clean and safe. But, clean water depends on you too! You can do your part to keep water clean. Use water wisely...the less you use, the less that needs to be cleaned.

Visit our web-site at: [www.cfpua.org](http://www.cfpua.org) for more fun puzzles and utility facts.

Learn more about your utilities by clicking on the Education & Outreach link under Public Info.