

# Snakes impact new sewer plan

Kim Mordecai NATOMAS JOURNAL

Natomas residents can thank the existence of endangered Giant Garter Snakes for a smoother ride to work next spring. A massive sewer project scheduled to begin next year by Sacramento Regional County District Sanitation (SRCDS) will be installed adjacent to the snakes habitat and construction will only be allowed between May 1st and October 1st due to federal restrictions which protect the nesting areas of these snakes.

According to Bernie Galvin, communications and media officer for SRCDS, the project, referred to as the Upper Northwest Interceptor sections 1 & 2 (UNWI 1 & 2) was conceived due to the fact that the existing wastewater system in the Natomas, installed 25 years ago, are no longer large enough to accommodate the area. Galvin says that with the exponential growth in Natomas, county officials are looking ahead to avoid future sewage issues.

Sewer—cont. page 25



Planned route for new sewer line in Natomas.

October 2007 NATOMAS JOURNAL

## Sewer from front page

“The sewers in the northeast area at capacity which means in severe wet weather conditions, they threaten to overflow,” says Galvin.

UNWI 1 & 2 is the largest tunneled sewer ever to be installed in the Greater Sacramento area and is the first part of a 19-mile sewer project that will begin at the Natomas Pump Station and stretch all the way to Orangevale.

According to Pat Doig, construction manager for Hatch Mott MacDonald, the engineering firm overseeing the project, UNWI 1 & 2 will involve installing 3.55 miles of 12-foot wide segmented sewer pipe underground from Bridgecross Drive running south along the East Drainage Canal adjacent to Natomas Boulevard and Truxel Road ending at the New Natomas Pumping station near the intersections of Interstate 5 and 80. The project will also include 20 manholes installed every 1,000 feet. The sewer components are funded by sewer impact fees collected when customers first connect to the sewer system.

The initial phase of the project will involve only underground construction which won't affect street traffic, residences or businesses according to Doig. Once the street construction begins there will be intersections along the East Drainage Canal that will be impacted including: North Market Blvd., Del Paso Road, North Bend Drive, Club Center Drive and Bridgecross Drive.

“These (intersections) are a few exceptions in areas that we will have to do some kind of traffic management,” said Doig who said that current traffic management plans do not include lane closures of any kind and that most of the

work will be off the roadway or will involve slip lanes – cones providing thoroughfares for construction trucks – or narrowing of lanes. All work will be limited to daylight hours.

Since 2004 seven community meetings have been held including participation by groups such as the Natomas Community Association, North Natomas Alliance and Natomas North Homeowners Association where the project was outlined and potential impact to the community was discussed. County officials then took traffic concerns and other issues into consideration when planning the project. The planning for UNWI 1 & 2 will continue to be an open public process which will involve ongoing communication with businesses, residents and the general public by SRCSD. Additional public outreach will be conducted prior to and during the construction phase. Natomas residents will receive written materials and have opportunities to attend community presentations to learn about project updates.

The main concern of local residents at meetings has been the possibility of traffic issues, however Galvin says the traffic disruption will be minimal.

“The main thing will be traffic from trucks that will either be tunneling or removing soils,” says Galvin. “I don't believe it will be overwhelming and with all the construction that has gone on in this area the project should have minimal impact to the community.”

For more information, visit the project Web site: [www.unwi1-4.com](http://www.unwi1-4.com). Anyone interested in hosting a project presentation for a specific neighborhood or homeowners association, can contact Mike Garcia at 491-3161 to schedule a date and time.

October 2007

THE VOICE OF NATOMAS

VOL. XXVII | No. 10