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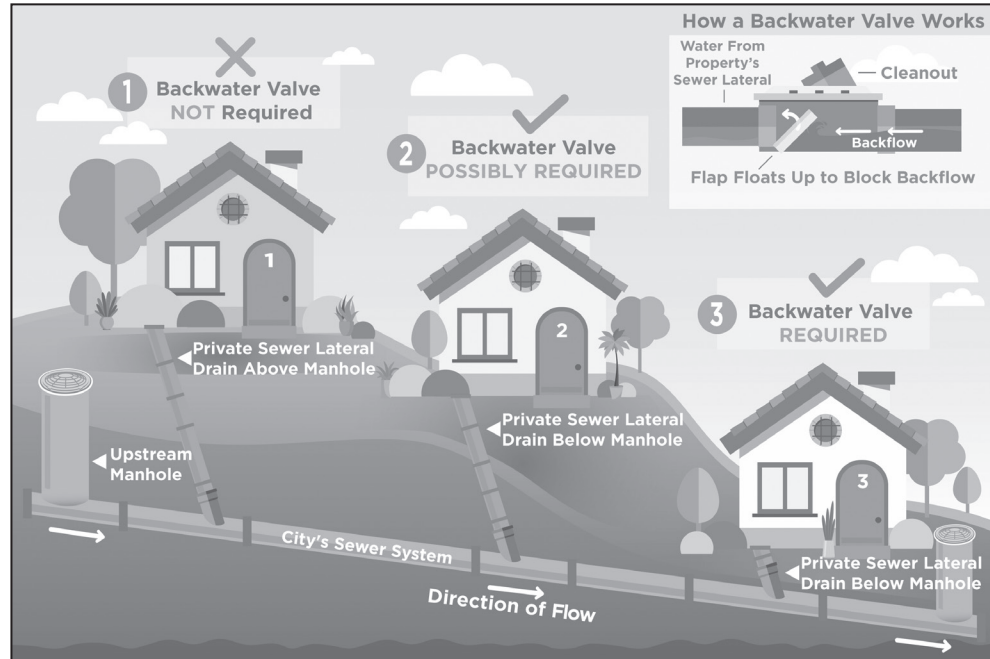


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## BACKWATER VALVES CAN PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

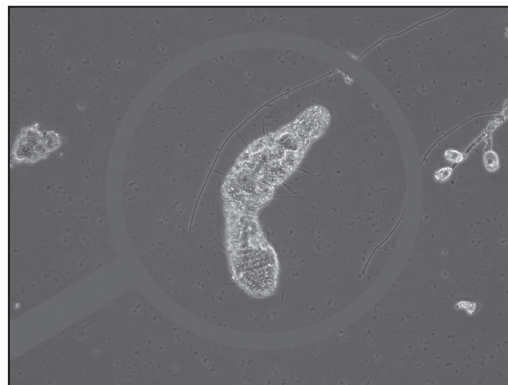


A backwater valve may prevent sewage backup from occurring on your property.

Sewer backups are not only unpleasant, but can result in costly damages. A backwater valve may prevent a sewer backup from occurring on your property. If your property has drainage fixtures located below the elevation of the next upstream manhole, you might be required by the California Plumbing Code to install and maintain an approved backwater valve.

To learn more about backwater valves, who needs one, and how to properly maintain them watch our video at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/BackwaterValve](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/BackwaterValve). In addition, the City of Santa Barbara Sewer Lateral Inspection Program (SLIP) staff is available to provide professional support to property owners installing a backwater valve, to schedule an appointment call (805) 568-1082 or email us at [SLIP@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:SLIP@SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## WASTEWATER BUG SPOTLIGHT: BRISTLE WORMS



Bristle worms serve an important role at the El Estero Water Resource Center, this one is magnified x100.

Bristle worms, as they are commonly known, belong to the Annelid phylum, which also includes other segmented worms such as earthworms and leeches. As the name implies, bristle worms are long, cylindrical organisms that are covered in hair-like bristles. Bristle worms commonly have bright pink spots which can cause the El Estero Water Resource Center's activated sludge to turn a reddish color.

Bristle worms can grow up to 1 cm in length which is large enough to see with the naked eye. Bristle worms reproduce by "budding" off segments of their body to produce a new worm. They use their tell-tale bristles to navigate wastewater in search of food.

The presence of bristle worms can often indicate key characteristics of the water that they inhabit. For example, they are very sensitive to ammonia and often only appear in the presence of high nitrate levels. Bristle worms graze on the bacterial population in sludge and biofilms. In doing so, they enhance oxygen penetration and promote healthy microbial growth which can contribute to an exceptional treatment process.

## SUNFLOWER PROGRAM AT SBA

Globally, one in seven people live with a disability - and many of those are non-visible. This spring, Santa Barbara Airport joined more than 200 airports across the world to offer the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program to passengers. By wearing a Sunflower lanyard, passengers with non-visible disabilities can indicate to staff that they may require a little extra patience, time, or assistance during their travel experience.



To learn more and request Sunflower materials, visit [www.flysba.com/sunflower](http://www.flysba.com/sunflower).

## LOW-COST SWIM LESSONS AND WATER SAFETY PROGRAMS OFFERED THIS SUMMER



Groups and individuals interested in supporting water safety programming scholarships can donate to the PARC Foundation and indicate "Aquatics" as the designation for their donation. Check out [parcsb.org](http://parcsb.org) for details.

Registration is now open for low-cost programs designed to ensure children six months to 17 years have the knowledge and skills to stay safe in and around water. Programs include swim lessons and Junior Lifeguards, an ocean safety program. Scholarships and a limited supply of swimsuits are available for families in need. Visit [SBParksAndRec.org](http://SBParksAndRec.org) to register.

## COMMUNITY AND STAFF COME TOGETHER AT CITY COUNCIL OPEN HOUSE

On May 17, the community had the opportunity to learn more about City services and meet the people behind those services at the City Hall Open House on Wednesday, May 17 in De La Guerra Plaza. The event featured various interactive exhibits and activities representing each department. The public was invited to ask questions, meet their elected officials or just have fun with some of the family-centered activities.



Lifeguards and Rangers from the City's Parks and Recreation Department were on hand to discuss their roles in the community.



The Community Development Department gathers feedback from community members.



Children had the chance to learn about fighting fires with the help Fire Department mascot Sparky.

## WATCH: STATE OF THE CITY 2023

Recently, Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse and City Administrator Rebecca Bjork delivered the State of the City presentation at a joint cities luncheon hosted by the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber brought together all three Mayors on the South Coast for a one-of-a-kind event featuring presentations from the three cities: Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria. You can watch the speeches and Q&A here: <https://youtu.be/VJuFEnuPIbA>



The South Coast Chamber of Commerce hosted a joint State of the City event for the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria in April.