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Public workshops on modernization plans for San Jose's sewage treatment plant

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A draft plan to modernize San Jose's aging sewage treatment plant and use 2,600 acres around it near Alviso will be the subject of a new round of public workshops before it heads to the San Jose and Santa Clara city councils in April for final approval.

The plant treats wastewater from 1.4 million residents of San Jose and Santa Clara, which jointly own it, along with Milpitas, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga and Monte Sereno.

The city is planning a \$1.6 billion upgrade over the next 30 years, using new technology to reduce smells and the need for open-air drying beds. After extensive studies and public meetings, the city's environmental services department has settled on a "draft recommended alternative" that calls for 300 acres of office and retail, 190 acres of burrowing owl habitat, 40 acres of sports fields, solar arrays and restored wetlands and trails.

Community meetings will be at 6 pm Wednesday at George Mayne Elementary School, 5030 North 1st St., San Jose; 6 pm Thursday Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose; and then 5:30 pm Tuesday at Santa Clara Library, 2635

Homestead Rd., Santa Clara; 6 pm Jan. 27 at Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino and 9:30 am on Jan. 29 at Barbara Lee Senior Center, 40 N. Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas

For more, go to www.rebuildtheplant.org.

Contact Paul Rogers at 408-920-5045.

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