



Special points of interest:

- New Projects
- Prevent Sewer Overflows
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- Tip of the Season

NEW PROJECTS AT VALLEJO SAN & FLOOD

Our wastewater treatment plant is located just off Sonoma Boulevard in south Vallejo, one of the key gateways to the city. Responding to the concerns of our trustees and citizens to make the entryway into Vallejo more pleasant and appealing, the District recently began a \$6.3 million project to reduce odors at the treatment plant. With the improvements, our goal is to significantly reduce the odors coming from the treatment plant so they are not noticeable from Sonoma Boulevard. We are proud to be part of a city-wide effort to improve the experience of Vallejo residents and visitors.

Our second large project is heading into the bidding process. As a result of a court-ordered settlement that resulted from a San Francisco Baykeeper lawsuit in 1996, the District will construct a \$13 million storage basin nearby.

The purpose of the 8.6 million gallon basin is to reduce the likelihood of raw sewage overflows during major storms.

We are also working with the Army

Corps of Engineers to address odor problems at White Slough. The odor, which was particularly noxious last summer, is caused by decomposing algae. The Army Corps has widened the flood gates that control the tides through White Slough, and we hope that the increase in tidal action will reduce the amount of algae in the coming years, and thus improve the smell.

Another project, still in the design phase, is to eliminate surface flooding that occurs on Donner Pass Road, making life a little easier for area residents.



Construction workers building extra odor control at the District.

Below, fourth grade students in Vallejo explore a model that shows how rainwater gets polluted as it moves through our environment. District staff visit schools throughout the year to teach kids about wastewater and stormwater. Teachers get videos, classroom posters, and projects for kids to take home and share with their families.



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CHECK YOUR CAPS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM SEWER OVERFLOWS!

Wastewater from sinks, toilets, washing machines and other sources flows from houses through a sewer line called a *lateral* that connects to the main sewer line.

Sewer lines can be blocked by tree roots, grease buildup, or debris in the pipes. It doesn't happen often, but a major sewer overflow can occur, causing expensive property damage.

To protect property from sewer overflows, many houses have an *overflow prevention device* that acts like a pressure cooker valve. If a blockage occurs in the pipes, the device is designed to erupt outside the house.

We strongly recommend checking to see what kind of sewer overflow device you have.

An overflow device is

usually found in the front yard within five feet of the foundation. It is often a cast iron or clay pipe, 4" in diameter. Newer homes may have concrete boxes that cover the device. If your device is in a concrete box, lift the lid of the box.



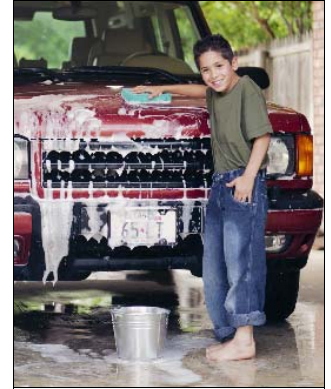
If your sewer overflow device looks like a plastic or aluminum mushroom, you are in good shape.

If your device looks like a pipe that has a cap screwed on tight, we

strongly recommend unscrewing the cap and simply resting it on top of the pipe. This will allow a potential backup to flow outside the house. If the cap is secured, however, the sewer backup can be pushed back into the house, overflowing toilets and sinks.

If there is no device near your house, check inside the sewer box in your sidewalk. If that cap is screwed down, unscrew it and rest it on top. Then call the District so we can replace it.

If you have questions, concerns, or can't find your sewer overflow device, give us a call at **644-8949 ext. 272**. We'll have a customer service tech come by your house and give you a free evaluation.



Tip of the Season

It's easy to help the environment when you wash your car. Using a commercial car wash is best, because the soapy, dirty water comes to our plant for treatment. If you wash your car at home, just remember these two simple tips: always dump and rinse your wash bucket into the sink (never the storm drain) and use a spray nozzle on your hose that shuts the water off when you're scrubbing!



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit www.vsfcd.com or call (707) 644-8949.

SAVE MONEY AND TIME WITH AUTO PAY

Did you know that you can have your sewer user fees paid automatically?

When you enroll in AutoPay, your financial institution will deduct funds from your checking account to pay your sewer fees. Your bill will be paid for you on time and automatically. You won't have to worry about missing a payment if you are away on a business trip or vacation.

You'll continue to receive your bimonthly statement and you'll have seven to ten days to review it before your bank pays the amount due.

Call us today to request an AutoPay brochure. The brochure gives you all the information you need to get started. You can reach the billing office by calling **644-8976** during regular business hours.

District employees hand out information on less toxic gardening and other treats at the Vallejo Farmers' Market Earth Day celebration.

