



Special points of interest:

- TV and our Storm Drains
- Coastal Cleanup Day
- Handling Wet Weather
- Sandbags

**Sewer block or overflow?
Call us first!**

TV IN A STORM DRAIN?

It may look like a child's remote controlled toy, but the District's "pipe ranger," a digital camera on sturdy wheels, provides critical information for our preventive maintenance and inspection efforts.

"In the past, people took an out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach to sewer and storm drain maintenance: If it wasn't over-flowing, it must be working. These days we have a much more proactive approach," explains Ken Taylor, who supervises the District's 5-person TV crew. "Pipes were installed in Vallejo starting in the 1800s, and a variety of materials were used, some more successfully than others. Many things affect the life of a pipe: weather, materials used, earthquake and traffic vibrations, soil type and acidity, water, depth, tree roots and more."

During inspections, the District sends the pipe ranger into a sewer

manhole or a storm catch basin. Wires connect the mobile unit to a video and computer setup inside a truck. The inspector guides the route of the camera using a joystick, and gathers information about the size and condition of the pipe, noting where potential problems exist that may cause disruptions in service, the extent of pollution from illegal discharges, and the effectiveness of our own cleaning techniques.

It is a critical investigative tool for problem solving, and much less expensive than having to dig up pipes to collect the same type of information. Since the early 1990s we have used TV cameras to solve countless problems and improve our cleaning methods, thus saving money and increasing our effectiveness.



Vallejo Sanitation was a proud co-sponsor of Coastal Cleanup Day. We thank the nearly 350 volunteers and community partners who picked up almost 16.5 tons of trash, old tires, a Taser, needles, discarded toys, cigarette filters and much, much more. Because of your efforts, Vallejo is cleaner and safer than ever before. With your help, we'll work hard to keep it that way. Special thanks are due to our outstanding and hard-working partners at VALCORE Recycling, Vallejo Garbage Service, City of Vallejo Code Enforcement and Marina, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, the California Maritime Academy and Albertsons/Savon.

Board of Trustees

- Hon. Anthony Intintoli
- Tom Bartee
- Gary Cloutier
- Gerald Davis
- Pamela Pitts
- Tony Pearsall
- Joanne Schivley
- John Silva

HANDLING WET WEATHER

As the rainy season begins in Vallejo, vehicle fluids built up on roadways create hazardous conditions for drivers and can lead to a surge in water pollution.

During the dry season, pollutants accumulate on roadways. The first rains mix with these pollutants to create slick, unsafe driving surfaces.

Not only is this build-up dangerous for drivers, but the accumulated pollutants also find their way into storm drains.

Winter rains wash vehicle pollutants such as tailpipe exhaust, zinc from automotive engine oil, copper from brake pad

dust, cadmium, lead, and automotive fluids off roads and streets into storm drains that flow directly to the Napa River and Mare Island Strait. These pollutants threaten water



quality and the health of wildlife in our waterways.

“There’s no question that the rainy season heightens our concerns about water pollution,” says Ron Matheson, District Manager. “The build-up of auto fluids on streets causes problems

when the rainy season hits. In an urban area like Vallejo, it only takes 7-10 days for these pollutants to build-up between rains. That means we’re dealing with an ongoing

problem throughout the season.” There are many things Vallejo residents can do to minimize pollution. See Tip of the Season for ideas. For more information about

preventing water pollution, visit our website at www.vsfcd.com or call Jennifer Kaiser at (707) 644-8949 ext. 292 for your free copy of “Keeping It All in Tune,” a simple, colorful guide with tips to get you through the rainy season.



Tip of the Season

Maintain your car regularly. A car that isn’t properly tuned produces up to 15 times more pollution than a well-running vehicle.

Check your driveway or regular parking area for build-up of auto fluids. If your car is leaking, promptly take your car to a professional repair shop. But, until you do, place a drip pan under your car to catch the leak.

Change your oil regularly. The longer engine oil is in service, the thinner it gets. Leaks are more likely, and exhaust emissions increase.

Drive less. Try carpooling or public transit (even just once a week), link trips as much as possible, telecommute if you can.



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

SANDBAGS FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

Sandbags are simple, inexpensive and effective ways to prevent or reduce water damage from flooding. Properly filled and placed sandbags act as a barrier to divert moving water. You can use sandbags in doorways, around foundations, and along driveways to help protect your property.

During winter months Vallejo Sanitation & Flood

Control District makes sand and empty sandbags available to Vallejo area residential customers. The District’s sandbag station is located near the west end of Solano Avenue in southwest Vallejo.

If you come, be sure to wear work gloves. Sandbags weigh approx. 30 pounds when full, so consider bringing along someone to help load and

carry sandbags.

Instructions for making sandbags, as well as directions to the District, are available on our website at www.vsfcd.com. The site also provides information about building sandbag dikes. In case of flooding please call the District at 644-8949, even if you have sandbags or don’t feel you need them.