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

NEW WATERSHED MAP

For the past several months, the District has been working with Green Info Network in San Francisco to develop a new map showing the watersheds of the greater Vallejo area.

The map was initially developed for use in schools to help students understand how water flows through our local landscape.

It will also be a valuable resource for elected officials, planners, citizens' groups, developers — anyone with an interest in understanding how water moves through Vallejo.

“Creating a map is a little like solving a mystery — especially in a place like Vallejo where there is not a great amount of detailed information available,” said Dan Tafolla, Director of Environmental Services. Sources for the new map included historic maps at the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, the District's own GIS layer of storm drain channels, and aerial photos.

The map is truly a work in progress. As new technology and

information grow in our area, more accurate detail can be added.

The Vallejo Watershed Group, a community-based organization of government agencies, nonprofit organizations and interested citizens,

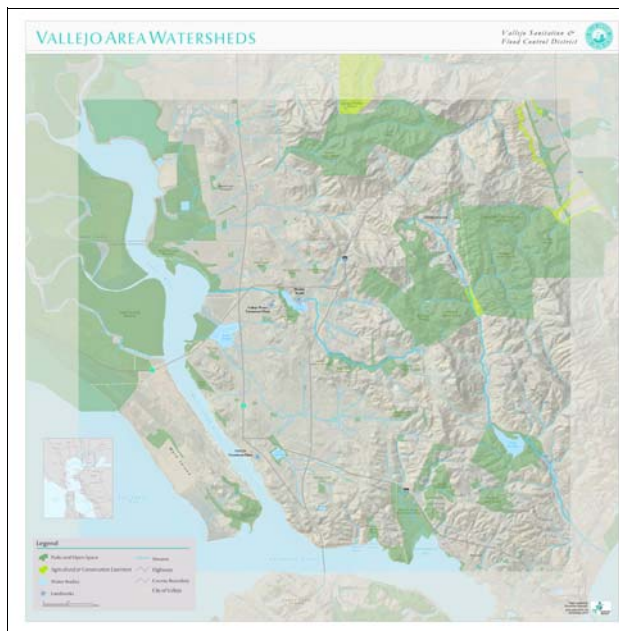
is looking forward to adding to the map's detail in the future. It will be a useful tool for developing watershed management plans as well.

The map shows parks and open spaces, as well as creeks, marsh-land, lakes and sloughs.

“That's the beauty of GIS technology,”

continues Tafolla. “The layers exist in their present form. As we gain knowledge over time the map will get richer and more detailed. Working on the map reminds us again of the deep connection between water and the city.”

The watershed map is available as a free download on the District's website at www.vsfcd.com. For info contact Jennifer Kaiser at jkaiser@vsfcd.com or call 644-8949 x292.



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DISTRICT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District has been selected to receive *Excellence in Management Recognition* from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), based in Washington, DC. The District was one of just seven wastewater utilities in the nation to receive this honor, and the only one in California.

The *Excellence in Management Recognition Program* recognizes public wastewater utilities that have successfully implemented progressive management initiatives that address the wide range of management challenges facing the clean water community.

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District was selected for this

honor for its significant efforts over the past several years in five areas including:



- Optimization of operations and maintenance practices, helping homeowners reduce their risk of sewer backup and flooding;
- Health and safety programs which reduce worker injury;
- Watershed-based activities, supporting the formation of the

Vallejo Watershed Group;

- Energy efficiency initiatives that replaced outdated diesel generators with natural gas units, decreasing the use of electrical power during peak times; and
- Increased security at the wastewater treatment plant.

“Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District truly embodies the spirit of the *Excellence in Management Recognition Program*. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase the achievements and commitment of our nation’s public wastewater utilities to America’s waters,” said Ken Kirk, NACWA’s Executive Director.



Tip of the Season

Follow these simple tips to prevent floods:

Keep storm drains free of debris. Rake leaves and litter off the top of the drain and dispose of in trash. Do not lift grate. If the water doesn't flow smoothly through the drain after raking, call us at 644-8949.

Clean out downspouts and gutters to your home or business; put the leaves and branches in your yardwaste container.

Secure motor oil, antifreeze and household chemicals on high shelves in an enclosed area.

Landscape with native plants and vegetation that resist soil erosion.

Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.

BILLING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

We are pleased to announce that our billing conversion is complete. You no longer receive your sewer use bills inside your City water bill; it comes to you directly from us. Now we are ready to roll out our customer service program for billing.

Many improvements

have already been made, including the creation of an Autopay program which allows customers to have their bills paid automatically from their checking accounts.

More enhancements are in development ... many from suggestions from our customers.

Our new billing system

improves customer service by establishing a direct relationship with the people who have the greatest interest in a property – you!

Be sure to watch upcoming newsletters and our website at www.vsfcd.com for the latest information on customer service.



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