



Special points of interest:

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- Earth Day
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**Sewer block or overflow?  
Call us first at 644-8949**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

*Currents*

## FLOODS IN VALLEJO

The severe storms that hit California over the New Year was a powerful reminder of the force of nature. The resulting floods drove Gov. Schwarzenegger and President Bush to declare a major disaster in California, paving the way for the use of federal funds to help people and communities recover from the storms.

Here in Vallejo, flooding occurred primarily in two low-lying (and federally-designated flood zone) areas: Mississippi/Hampshire Streets near Couch, and the Vallejo Mobile Estates park near Lake Dalwigk.

Throughout the storm, crews from Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District and the city's Public Works Department worked to help residents, keep channels and storm drains clear of moving debris. All District flood channels and pump stations worked properly, and once the waters subsided, crews assisted home and business owners remove debris. The District provided 4,500 sandbags and 82.5 tons of sand free to residents of Solano and Napa counties.

Severe flooding occurred throughout Solano County. Outside of Vallejo, communities suffered \$60 million in damages. The improvements to Vallejo made in the last 25 years kept Vallejo's damages to an estimated \$1.86 million.

### Our Future Plans

The District is working on a flood control project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will improve the drainage situation in this area. The first phase, the installation of floodgates on White Slough at Highway 37, has been



completed. The balance of the project will include widening the Austin Creek storm drain channel at Valle Vista and Redwood Streets and the installation of a long weir (an overflow structure) between the Austin Creek storm drain channel and White Slough.

### What You Can Do

According to FEMA, floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters except fire. Flooding can happen anytime, anywhere. Knowing and understanding your flood zone helps you understand your risk of financial loss. It's important information to consider when purchasing flood insurance.

View the level of flood risk to your property and community at the FEMA Map Store ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) where viewing flood risk identification maps is free.

Besides insuring your property, there are many other things you can do before a flood to minimize potential loss to your home and ensure your family's safety. The FEMA website ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) and the state Office of Emergency Services ([oes.ca.gov](http://oes.ca.gov)) provides information for protecting your home and property prior to flooding, as well as during and after the storm event.

### Working Together

No one can prevent floods. But if we work together, we can protect our community and property and continue to minimize the damage that can occur.

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## PROPERLY DISPOSE OF COOKING OIL

Did you know that more than 80% of the sewer overflows in Vallejo residences are caused by too much cooking grease?

Sewer overflows caused by backups can create health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes that are blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Most often, grease that comes from home cooking residue gets washed into the plumbing system through the kitchen sink. Over time, grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the

plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.



Commercial additives, including detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

It's easy for Vallejo residents to recycle used cooking oil and grease,

and prevent drain clogs.

Simply bring it to Vallejo Garbage Service at 2021 Broadway in Vallejo. Hours are Thurs-Sat 8 AM to 4 PM. No appointment is necessary, but they're closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more info call 552-3110.

Do not pour grease down drains or garbage disposals. Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty them into the trash for disposal.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent sewer overflows is to keep cooking oil and grease out of the system.

If you'd like to receive a free brochure on Fat Free Sewers, call Jennifer Kaiser at 644-8949 ext. 292.



## Tip of the Season

*Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 22nd at the Vallejo Farmers' Market on Georgia Street. Activities include:*

- *Fun for kids! Face painting, craft projects and more from Valcore, honoring their 25th anniversary*
- *Information and ideas for using less-toxic products in your home and garden*
- *California Native Plant Society booth*
- *And don't forget the annual e-waste event at Vallejo Garbage Service!*



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

## ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT SOON!

By popular demand, we are adding on-line bill payment as a convenience for our customers. This service allows customers to access their accounts, as well as increases the options for bill paying. The new feature improves customer service through

allowing customers to view account information and activity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides added flexibility for different payment needs. Account access is helpful to all customers, but can be particularly helpful to

out-of-town and out-of-state owners wanting to keep tabs on the status of their accounts. Our anticipated go-live date is April 2006. Please follow our website at [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com) for the latest updates.