



### Points of Interest

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

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

*Currents*

## SEWER RATE INCREASE

On December 20, 2005, the Trustees of the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District voted unanimously to increase sewer rates by 10% in July 2006 and an additional 6% in July 2007. The Trustees considered a 3% increase for July 2008, but instead requested a rate review in 2008.

Prior to the Trustees' approval, the issue was reviewed in depth and approved by the District's Citizens Advisory Committee, a group of Vallejo residents who act in a volunteer capacity. Two public hearings were also held.

Monies generated from the rate increase will be used in two ways:

1. As part of a court-ordered settlement, the District had to issue a \$20 million bond to fund construction of a nine million gallon tank designed to prevent sewer overflows during heavy storms.
2. Continue to operate, maintain and implement upgrades to the sewer and storm system that protects Vallejo's public health and property.

Every month, homes, schools and businesses in Vallejo use water to run

faucets, toilets, showers, washing machines and dishwashers.

After being used, that wastewater flows through hundreds of miles of sewer pipes to the wastewater treatment plant. At the plant, the water is tested and treated following strict regulations before being released to the Carquinez Strait.



*Construction of new 9 million gallon overflow tank.*

Other than the small lateral sewer pipes that connect individual buildings to sewer mains, the District is responsible for transporting and treating the wastewater all the way to the Bay. Effective wastewater treatment is critical to public health and the health of the San Francisco Bay.

Residential customers currently pay \$29.80 per month for sewer service. After July 1, 2006 rates will be calculated at \$32.78 per month, a \$2.98 increase. After July 1, 2007, rates will be calculated at \$34.75 per month, a \$1.97 increase.

Sewer rates will increase at the same rate (10% and 6% over

two years) for commercial and industrial customers as well. Rates for these customers are based on usage.

In comparison with other cities, Vallejo's sewer rates are about average: Benicia pays \$39.36 per month, American Canyon pays \$33.60 per month, and Napa pays \$22.83 per month but is seeking approval to raise their rates to \$34.73 per month over a three year period.

### **Pro-Rating**

The sewer rate increase will be pro-rated based on when you are billed. You will notice an increase in the July-August 2006 billing cycle; however, the full impact of this year's rate increase will be reflected in your September-October bill.

### District Manager

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# ODOR CONTROL OR FLYING SAUCER?



Here at the wastewater treatment plant, we get excited over things that others might consider odd. Take June, for instance.

On a cloudy morning with the wind mercifully quiet, a 104 ft. wide steel dome was placed on top of our north bio-tower.

For weeks leading up to the move, construction workers carefully built the dome, triangle by triangle, in one of the District's parking lots. As it grew, it began to look like something out of a science fiction novel. In the end, the talented crane operator and crew took only twenty minutes to actually pick the thing up and set it gently on top of the tower.

### What is a bio-tower?

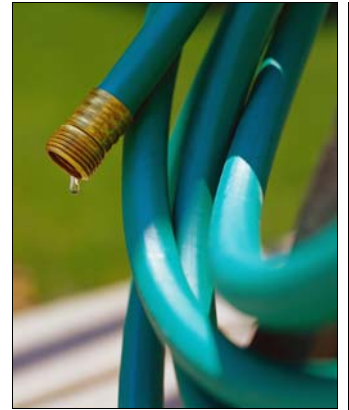
The bio-towers (we have two) are 32 ft. tall and 104 ft. wide. They are part of the secondary treatment process.

The bio-towers are filled with plastic honeycomb-shaped media. Rotating arms spray wastewater from the primary treatment process over the media. Microorganisms grow on the plastic. They eat the organic matter in the water (mostly from human waste), and keep on eating as long as there is organic matter and oxygen in the water.

After they finish, the wastewater flows into the secondary clarifier where the dying organisms settle to the bottom and are removed.

### Why the dome?

The District is in the final stages of a multi-year, multi-million dollar project to reduce odors emanating from the treatment plant. The bio-tower domes, along with many other tanks and basins, have been covered to prevent smells, and air scrubbers have been added to clean the air before it is released. For a full tour of the treatment process, visit [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com).



## Tip of the Season

*Here's an easy way to save money on your water consumption bills: Water lawns by the holidays!*

*Think of 100% as the most you automatically water your lawn during the hottest months. Easter typically comes at the end of the rainy season, so begin by watering about 40%. Follow the chart below and remember that even if it's hot at the end of October, your lawn has stopped growing. It doesn't need water at this point.*

*Easter—40%*

*Cinco de Mayo—60%*

*4th of July—100%*

*Labor Day—60%*

*Halloween—Off*

**Please Note:** *You will still need to water your vegetables and potted plants until the rain starts.*



*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.*

# 2006 COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Mark your calendars now for Coastal Cleanup Day on Sat., September 16th from 9 AM to noon. Volunteers are needed at more than twenty locations throughout Vallejo to clean trash and debris from creeks, lakes, marshes and the shore.

Last year's Coastal Cleanup netted more than

15 tons of trash and recyclables from Vallejo!

The great success was made possible by our outstanding volunteers and corporate partners.

Please join us and make this year the best ever. Updated info can be found on the Events page of [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com).



*2005 Coastal Cleanup volunteers*