



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Flood Alert**

*Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District Warns of Leaves and Trash Blocking Storm Drains*

Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District

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*October 1, 2004*--Last year, flooding occurred during the first rains of the year because trash, leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste accumulated in Vallejo storm drains. This fall, the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District is asking residents to dispose of their trash and yard waste properly and help prevent flooding. When flooding occurs, property may be damaged, and flood control and street sweepers need to work extra shifts which can result in increased fees for residents.

Trash and yard waste block the flow of rain to the storm drains, where it flows untreated to the Bay. Many people understand that used motor oil and trash are harmful to wildlife, but may not know that even yard waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, and branches create a toxic substance as they decay. What seems part of the natural world, like leaves, does not naturally occur in the Bay and can be harmful to marine life.

Here's what residents can do to help:

- *Trash and Yard Waste Disposal:* Trash is collected every week, and yard waste is collected every other week by Vallejo Garbage Service. Yard waste is brought to a compost facility where it is converted to an all-natural fertilizer. Residents can also bring yard waste to the Vallejo Garbage Service Yardwaste Drop-Off facility at 2021 Broadway (Thursday through Saturday 8:00-4:00). There's no extra charge for these services and participation helps keep garbage rates down. Call Vallejo Garbage Service at 552-3110 for more information.
- *Start a compost pile in your backyard.* Composting is nature's way of recycling plant material into a slow release fertilizer and soil enhancer. Composting reduces the amount of waste you need to dispose of and makes an earth friendly soil amendment. Soils enhanced with compost require less water and produce stronger healthier plants. The Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District is sponsoring a free compost workshop on October 23 at Yarbbirds, and VALCORE Recycling is having a compost class at their site on Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m. to noon sponsored by the City of Vallejo Recycling Program.
- *Use a mulching blade to cut your lawn.* Mulching your lawn eliminates the need to rake and dispose of lawn clippings and promotes a healthy lawn. Mulched lawns require less water and fertilizer, and are more resistant to disease and adverse weather conditions. You can find out more about composting and mulching from VALCORE Recycling at 55-EARTH.



For more information, visit the web site at [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com). To receive your free "Solano County Recycling Guide," which contains information on recycling, solid waste, hazardous waste, and pollution prevention, call Jennifer Kaiser at (707) 644-8949 ext. 292 or email [jkaiser@vsfcd.com](mailto:jkaiser@vsfcd.com).