



RSD On The Water

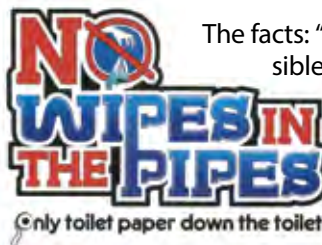
Greetings from the District Manager!

As a continued effort to keep our residents and businesses informed, the District sends this newsletter to all addresses in Rodeo. The focus of this newsletter will be pollution prevention, current and future activities, and the latest and greatest news from the folks at the treatment plant.

District Board Members News

The District has two new board members, Angela Noble and Terry Tigh. Angela was appointed to the Director position in June 2016 after the retirement of long time Board Member Robert Russey. Terry will be appointed in December 2016 to fill the vacancy of Teagan Clive (who had replaced Alan Leal).

Robert served as a Rodeo Sanitary District Board Member for 11 years serving most of those years as a key member of the Budget Committee. Robert also served on the Districts Personnel Committee, and Solid Waste Contract Negotiation Committee. Robert was an integral part in the negotiation of several major employment contracts for the District including the District Manager and Employees Union. Robert was a very dedicated member of the Board of Directors and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.



The plaque pictured was created to recognize the outstanding effort of the Board of Directors responsible for the implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan (Alan Leal, Barbara Russey, Robert Russey, Richard Frakes, Janet Callaghan)

Flushable Wipes

One of the worst trends in society is to use flushable wipes in place of toilet paper. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the American Public Works Association (APWA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) have launched campaigns to stop the use of these so called flushable wipes.

The facts: "flushable" wipes are responsible for increased maintenance activities at sewage pump stations, sewer system

overflows, and increased maintenance at the sewage treatment plant. What does this mean to you? \$MONEY\$!!! Wipes clog pumps and if we do not clean the pumps, their performance drops to the point of being unable to pump sewage. This can lead to catastrophic sewage spills into the bay.

The toilet is not a trash can. Please do not treat it as such. The only thing to go into the toilet is what comes from the human body or toilet paper. It is simple. Please help us by throwing the wipes into the trash/garbage.

(continued on Page 2)

Mission Statement

To safely provide the highest level of wastewater collection and treatment as economically as possible for the people of Rodeo while protecting the sensitive ecosystem of the San Pablo Bay and the overall environment.

District Meetings (510) 799-2970

- > New Location - Regular Board Meeting, 6:00 PM second Tuesday of each month at the John Swett Unified School District Board Room, 400 Parker Ave.
- > Budget Committee Meeting, 1:00 PM second Monday of each month at the District Office, 800 San Pablo Ave.

Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan and State Revolving Fund Loan Program

The District’s mission is “To safely provide the highest level of wastewater collection and treatment as economically possible for the people of Rodeo while protecting the sensitive ecosystem of the San Pablo Bay and the overall environment.” In June 2013, the District completed a planning process to determine how to best meet this mission over the next 20 years. The plan is identified in the Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan (CWWMP) prepared for the District. The plan is available on the District’s website. The primary objectives of the CWWMP were to assess the ability of existing facilities to provide reliable wastewater collection and treatment, plan for future regulations, and develop a prioritized and comprehensive 20-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that address the District’s current and future needs.

Schedule	Project	Budget Cost (million)
Complete 2015	Sewer Year 1 Improvements	\$2.0
Complete 2016	Sewer Year 2A Improvements	\$2.4
Start Sept 2016	WWTP Improvements	\$1.8
Start Oct 2016	Sewer Year 2B Improvements	\$2.4
Start Jan 2017	Sewer Year 3A Improvements	\$2.4
Start Dec 2016	Influent Pump Station Improvements	\$1.8
Start May 2017	Sewer Year 3B Improvements	\$2.4
Start Oct 2017	Sewer Year 3C Improvements	\$1.4
Total Cost	\$16.6	\$16.6

The District Board reviewed a number of potential options presented in the master plan and selected a CIP alternative that included various hydraulic improvements at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and Influent Pump Station, along with an extensive sewer replacement program to address sewer rehabilitation needs where sanitary sewer overflows had occurred or risk of overflow was very high. The estimated budget to fund these projects over the

next 20 years was approximately \$37.2 million dollars. The District Board chose to finance the CIP projects primarily through the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) low interest loans in order to minimize the long-term cost of borrowing. Due to limited funds, the District Board prioritized a total of \$16.6 million budget for eight separate projects as listed in the table below. Following completion of these eight projects, the District Board will reassess the CIP projects remaining on the 20-year plan to reconsider priorities for those projects.

The sewer project construction started in January 2015 with the Sewer Year 1 project. All sewer projects were prioritized to include replacements of sewers that had the highest numbers of defects and the greatest risk of overflow. Many of these defects allowed storm water to enter the sanitary sewer system during heavy rains, causing peak flows that exceeded pumping capacity and caused sanitary

sewer overflows at manhole locations. Approximately 6,400 feet length (1.2 miles) of sewer were replaced or installed. This project was completed during the summer of 2015 and **created an immediate impact by reducing peak wet weather flows in the sewers and at the pump stations!!**

Construction on the second sewer replacement project, Sewer Year 2A, began in spring 2016 and was completed in fall 2016 (Figure 1). This project included replacement of about 6,100 feet length (1.1 miles), including some areas that required frequent maintenance. Peak flows during wet weather will be monitored this coming winter to determine the effect of the Sewer Year 2A project improvements.

The District currently has four projects moving into the construction stage, including the WWTP and Influent Pump Station Improvements as well as the Sewer Year 2B and Sewer Year 3A projects. The WWTP project includes both mechanical improvements at the treatment plant, and the replacement of the outdated monitoring and alarm systems. Both projects will resolve long standing maintenance issues at the treatment plant, and prepare the plant for future upgrades as necessary to meet changing regulations. The Influent Pump Station Improvements will increase the pumping capacity to meet the expected peak wet weather flows to reduce overflow risks in the sewer system. The pump station electrical system originally installed in the mid 1950s will also be replaced as part of the pump station improvements.

The sewer replacements throughout the District will continue through 2017 and 2018. The Sewer Year 2B project will include about 4,800 feet of sewer replacements between Fourth Street and Seventh Street west of Parker Avenue, starting in October 2016 (Figure 2). The Sewer Year 3A project will include about 4,600 feet of sewer replacements and repairs between San Pablo Avenue and Fourth Street west of Parker Avenue. The Sewer Year 3A project is expected to start construction in January 2017. The Sewer Year 3B and 3C projects are currently in the design and planning stages and will generally include sewer replacements east of Parker Avenue, between San Pablo Avenue and Hawthorne Drive. These projects will begin construction in the second half of 2017.

Sewer Year 1



FIGURE 1
Construction Progress and Schedule
Sewer Year 2A Project

Sewer Year 2



FIGURE 2
Construction Progress and Schedule
Sewer Year 2B Project

KUDOS TO ED!

The partnership was formed and kicked off during pollution prevention week in September 2008. Rodeo Hardware is the staging point for District residents to recycle batteries (no car batteries), fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), and for you to exchange your old mercury thermometer for a free digital thermometer. So far, RSD and Rodeo Hardware have recycled over 2,500 pounds of batteries, 2,000 fluorescent lights and exchanged almost 125 mercury thermometers.



You can, at any time (as long as Ed's is open), bring down these items for recycling. You can also take them to the West County Household Hazardous Chemical Recycling Facility (see page 11). Unfortunately, RSD and Ed's are not set up to take more than just the batteries, fluorescent bulbs and mercury thermometers.

Please contact RSD for more information at (510) 799-2970.

Cooking Grease

Cooking grease is one of the primary causes of sewer spills throughout the Rodeo Sanitary District's service area. Sewer spills cannot only pollute streams, rivers, and the Bay, they can endanger public health.

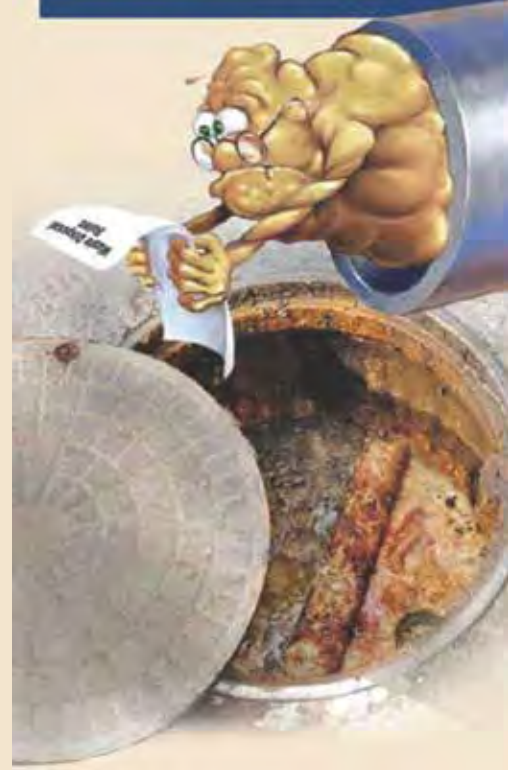
All cooking oils disposed of improperly can cause problems in the sewer system.

These include:

- Frying oil
- Meat drippings
- Salad oil
- Bacon fat
- Soups
- Greasy leftovers



Keep Fats, Oils, and Grease Out of the Drain!



Important Facts

Cooking grease coats pipelines in much the same way that fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of a pipe, builds up, and eventually causes a complete blockage.

- > Costly home plumbing bills are often the result of grease-clogged pipelines. Residential pipelines can clog easily since they are only 2 to 4 inches in diameter.
- > Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily. Grease should never be poured down the drain. If a small amount of grease gets in your drain, flush immediately with cold water.



10 Ways to Protect the Bay

Here are ten things we can all do to help protect the Bay, and the rest of our environment, from pollution:

1 Use alternatives to toxic cleaning products. Purchase products labeled “non-toxic.” Use baking soda mixed with water as an all-purpose cleaner instead of commercial products made of harsh chemicals. Use a solution of vinegar and water to produce streak-free windows and mirrors without harmful vapors or odors.

2 Reduce use of toxic pesticides and landscape chemicals. Use pesticides and weed killers only when absolutely necessary. Choose the least-toxic product, such as insecticidal soap, to target a specific pest. Switch to organic fertilizers which release nutrients slowly. Do not apply chemicals to your yard if rain is forecast, and avoid over-watering to prevent contaminated run-off from flowing into storm drains and the Bay.

3 Properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Instead of putting batteries, fluorescent bulbs, paint, solvents, oil, pesticides or other household hazardous waste items in the trash or down the drain, bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

4 Do not flush medicines. The chemicals found in many medications can pass through our sewage treatment process and end up in the Bay, where they may harm aquatic life. Instead, ask your pharmacy if it has a take-back program or place them in the trash, out of reach of children and pets (see article on page 10).

5 Prevent fats, oil and grease from going down the drain. Grease can clog pipes and potentially cause an overflow that may release sewage to the environment. Instead, collect oil and grease in a sealed container and put it in the trash. Bring large quantities (such

as from a turkey fryer) to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for disposal.

6 Use digital or spirit-filled fever thermometers instead of mercury ones. A mercury thermometer dropped into a sink can break and release highly toxic mercury into the drain. The mercury in one fever thermometer is enough to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water. Mercury thermometers thrown in the trash contaminate landfills. Bring your mercury thermometers to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and exchange them for digital thermometers—free!

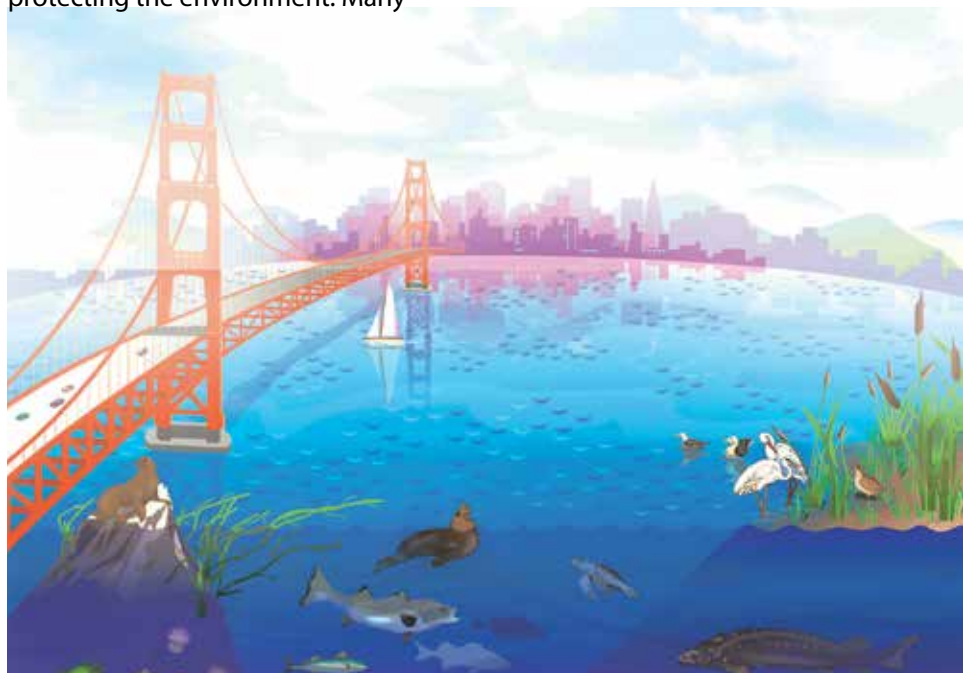
7 Buy rechargeable batteries. Dead batteries are considered hazardous waste because they contain metals and corrosive materials that would be harmful to the environment. It is illegal to dispose of them in the trash. Rechargeable batteries will last at least 10 times longer than single-use batteries, saving you money and protecting the environment. Many

major retailers that sell rechargeable batteries allow customers to bring them back at no charge. Alternatively, you can bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for recycling/disposal.

8 Don't be a litter bug. Trash on the beach or in gutters can end up in local waters where it may injure or even kill marine animals. Please dispose of trash properly, and recycle plastic bags at major grocery stores.

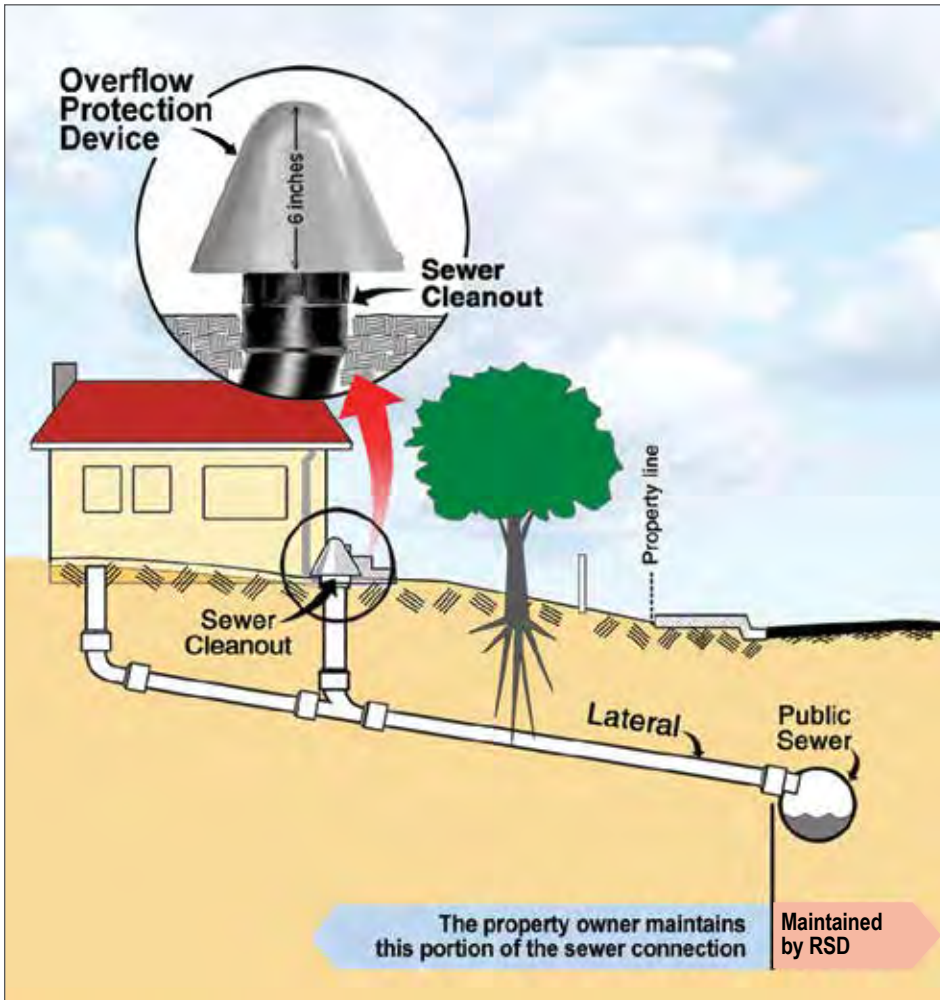
9 Wash your car at a commercial car wash. Washing your car on your driveway or the street will allow the runoff to flow into the storm drain. Water in storm drains flows untreated to the Bay, and the soap, dirt, oil and metals washed from your car will flow with it. Even biodegradable soaps can harm fish and wildlife. Commercial car washes use sewer drains that flow to the treatment plant.

10 Pass it on! Share these pollution prevention tips with others so that they can help protect the Bay too!



How to Protect Your Home and Property from a Sewage Overflow

Wherever a sewer system exists, so does the potential for overflows.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

The Association of Bay area Governments (ABAG) offers free Overflow Protection Devices (OPDs) to residents of nine Bay Area Counties, including Contra Costa County. Unfortunately, these free devices do not meet the District's standards and may not protect your home from a sewage overflow. The District would not be liable for any overflow damage to properties inadequately protected by this free OPD.

Installation of a District-approved OPD will be required for all sewer connections in the RSD service area. The District's Approved Materials List allow two styles of OPDs: a "mushroom" type device or a sewer popper/pop-up device. The spring-loaded device from ABAG is not acceptable by District standards.

For more information on OPDs, call the District office at (510) 799-2970.

This inexpensive device can protect your property.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY OR YOURS?

If a sewage backup occurs, call the Rodeo Sanitary District (RSD) immediately (510-799-2970). A crew will be dispatched to locate the blockage and determine if it is in the public sewer line. If the problem is in the public sewer line, the crew will clear the blockage and clean up the affected area, home or business.

Many overflows, however, are caused by clogs in the side-sewer pipe (lateral) that connects your home's plumbing to the public sewer line. This pipe is the property owner's responsibility, RSD cannot remove the blockage, make repairs, or clean up the mess that results from an overflow due to conditions in the pipe. You (or the property owner) must contact—and pay for—a licensed plumbing contractor to do this work.

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A Simple Device Can Help Protect Your Home

Regardless of whether the clog is in the public sewer main or your private lateral, a sewage overflow inside your home can often be prevented by installing a backwater overflow device (BWOD).

With a BWOD installed on your sewer lateral, sewage backing up in the pipe from the direction of the street will be released through the device into your yard, rather than through drains in your home. (A blockage in the pipe between your house and the BWOD may still release sewage into your home.)

These devices cost less than \$50 and are available at many plumbing supply stores. Because proper elevation and location are critical for the device to function properly, we recommend installation by a licensed plumbing contractor. Once installed, you should keep the BWOD clear of obstructions such as dirt or vegetation that might interfere with its operation.



Two of the most popular models of Overflow Prevention Devices.

It's Not Only Smart, It's Required

Since 2006, the sewer system management plan has required that BWODs be installed on the sewer laterals of all houses and businesses within the RSD service area, regardless of when those buildings were constructed. The District will require the installation of the BWOD if a permit for construction is pulled from the County.



To find out if your property already has an BWOD installed, check your sewer lateral cleanout, approximately two to ten feet from your home. It may be hidden by vegetation. Alternatively, you can

ask a professional plumber to determine whether an BWOD is present and in good working order. For more information, call the RSD staff at (510) 799-2970.

Is a Public Sewer Pipeline Buried on Your Property?

The Rodeo Sanitary District (RSD) uses and maintains about 25 miles of underground pipes to collect Wastewater from more than 3,000 customers and transport it to our treatment plant here in town. Wastewater flows downhill by gravity, and sometimes the best route for our pipes is through someone's yard. Although we would prefer to have all of our underground pipes located under public streets where they can be easily accessed, about 5 miles of our pipes are located on private property.

Unfortunately, not all homeowners realize that a public sewer pipeline may be buried on their property. As a result, the homeowner may inadvertently create an obstruction by building a deck, pool, or other structure over the sewer line which can interfere with our ability to make repairs or perform maintenance.

Before even starting to plan such structures, if you suspect there may be a pipeline buried on your property, please call us at (510) 799-2970 and leave a message with your address (and parcel number, if available). We will research the details and let you know if a public sewer line is buried on your property.



WATCH FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING

There has been an increase in illegal dumping of solid waste throughout Rodeo especially at the treatment plant and in the alley ways between 3rd and 6th Streets. Illegal dumping is everyone's problem. It can be harmful to wildlife, plants and water, and damage to surrounding community and economy. Illegal dumping is a long-standing problem in many communities because:

- > Certain locations become routine dump sites.
- > Dump sites attract additional dumping.
- > Neighborhood blight and possible crime activity.
- > Attractive "play" area to children and/or provides scavenging opportunities.
- > Harmful contents due to toxic or hazardous nature.

Illegal dumping of solid waste is not only a nuisance and unsightly, it has health impacts as well:

- > Sensitivity to odors.
- > Attracts flies which use decaying wastes as a food source and can transmit disease causing microorganisms and filth.
- > Attracts rodents. Rodents and their fleas may transmit human diseases. The potential for a disease outbreak may increase as the rat population increases.

Everyone shares in the cost to clean up illegal dump sites. Dump sites result in neighborhood blight and may result in low neighborhood pride and decreased property maintenance that may lead to decreased property values as well as possible criminal activity.

The time and effort public officials spend on illegal dumping could be directed at more worthy causes such as serious crime and health issues.

Rodeo ordinances require mandatory subscription with garbage service to remove waste from homes and businesses on a weekly or more frequent basis. It is everyone's responsibility – home, property, and business owners – to ensure garbage service is provided. There are also laws and regulations prohibiting illegal dumping of solid wastes.

There are several ways the community can help to prevent ongoing illegal dumping:

Report illegal dumping as soon as possible to the sheriffs dispatch at 925 – 646 – 2441. If you see someone dumping illegally, without endangering yourself, try to obtain identifying information such as a physical description, vehicle description and license plate number, and note the time and location. The more information provided, the better the chances of stopping further illegal dumping.

- > Contact the Contra Costa County Environmental Health Services at 925-692-2500 to report the illegal dumping activity. They will notify the Rodeo Sanitary District.
- > Report landlords who do not provide garbage service to the garbage collection company in your area.
- > Do your part to dispose of waste properly or recycle items you no longer want but could be reused or transformed by others.

Above all have pride in your neighborhood, your neighborhood is not a trash can, please dispose of trash appropriately.



Holiday Cooking: Bad for Sewers?

GREEN TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Fats, oils, and grease.

They're the number one cause of sewer clogs and overflows, and they may be coming from your kitchen!

Even if you don't pour used cooking oil and excess grease down the drain (and we hope you don't!), some of the fatty foods that get sent through your garbage disposal may cause problems. All year long, cooking by-products from thousands of homes and restaurants in your area get washed down kitchen drains. The fats, oils and grease can build up in sewer pipes over time and create blockages, backups and overflows inside homes or in public streets.

During the holiday season — when more people are cooking higher-fat content foods, deep-fat-frying their turkeys, and enjoying large family meals — the amount of fats, oils and grease entering the sewer system increases, as does the potential for problems.

Here are a few things you can do to help prevent a clog or sewer backup from happening and ruining your holidays:

- Keep dairy products, fats, oils, grease or greasy foods out of the sink and the garbage disposal.
- Freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid and dispose of it in the trash.

- Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place it in a lidded container and dispose of it in the trash.
- For greasy pans that need to be soaked in soapy water, pour off the grease into a container and wipe the pan with a paper towel. Then after soaking the pan, place a paper towel over the drain basket to catch grease and food particles as you empty the soapy water down the drain.
- Bring large quantities of cooking oil and grease to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for recycling into biofuels.



Guidelines for **SAFE DISPOSAL** of Unwanted Drugs

FIRST, check with your pharmacy to see if it offers a pharmaceutical take-back program for your unused drugs.

If a pharmaceutical take-back program is not available, please follow these guidelines for disposing of your medications:

- > Take them out of their original containers
- > Put them in a sealable container (such as a sealable coffee can or plastic bag)
- > Mix in an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter)
- > Seal the container
- > Put the container in the trash
- > Do not dispose of syringes or needles with medications

The latest studies have shown that the chemicals in many drugs can harm fish, amphibians and other aquatic life. Sewage treatment plants are designed to treat human waste and biodegradable material; they are not equipped to filter out all traces of these chemicals, which will end up in the Bay.



By following these guidelines, you will be helping to protect the water environment while also ensuring that unwanted medications are disposed of properly and keep away from pets, children, and substance abusers.

Because many medications contain controlled substances, we are unable to accept them at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. Federal law allows only the individual to whom the controlled substance is prescribed, or law enforcement personnel, to possess them. Please help to protect our environment by following the above guidelines when disposing of your expired or unwanted medications.

Copper-Containing Products Can **POISON** the Environment

As it turns out, copper, a highly toxic metal, is present in Bay Area water. It is poisonous, even in very small amounts, to aquatic plants and animals such as shellfish in early life stages.

While the treatment process removes about 90 percent of the copper that enters our wastewater treatment plant through the sewer system, the remaining portion does reach San Pablo Bay.

Copper-based plant and tree root control agents once contributed as much as 12 percent of the total amount of copper received by area wastewater treatment plants. However, in 1995, nine Bay Area counties (including Contra Costa) banned the use and sale of root-inhibiting products containing copper sulfate.

Still, many sources of copper are not easily controlled. They include abandoned mines, brake linings, copper pipes, even human waste (from consuming drinking water sent through copper pipes; the levels are safe for human health). However, some sources can be controlled, reducing the amount of copper sent to the sewer.

Copper is an ingredient in many products designed to kill algae in pools, ponds, spas and fountains. So,



rather than using copper algicides, follow these steps to eliminate algae:

- > Regularly clean your pool, spa or fountain, and maintain proper chlorine levels.
- > Maintain proper filtration and circulation levels.
- > Manage pH and water hardness to minimize copper pipe corrosion.
- > Control algae with chlorine, organic polymers, or other alternatives to copper-based chemicals such as sodium bromide or hypochlorite-containing shock treatments. Some products, such as GreenClean, use oxidation to control algae.
- > Ask pool maintenance service for help resolving persistent algae problems without using copper algicides.

REMINDER: When Checking for Fever, Go Digital

A mercury thermometer (silver bulb at the bottom) contains enough mercury to contaminate more than 200 million gallons of water, and these thermometers are particularly vulnerable to breakage. If mercury goes down the drain, it contaminates the wastewater that eventually flows to the Bay because the treatment process cannot remove all traces of mercury. This is why the use of mercury fever thermometers is banned in California.

Instead of disposing of mercury thermometers in the trash, please bring them to the household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.



We'll even give you a free digital fever thermometer in exchange for your mercury thermometer!

For more information, please call
1-800-646-1431.

It's a Toilet, NOT a Trash Can!

- Cleaning wipes
- Disposable diapers, nursing pads, and baby wipes
- Hair
- Grease
- Condoms
- Facial wipes
- Tampons and pads



These products and others are clogging our sewer lines and damaging pumps and other equipment – so please place these items in the trash, NOT in the toilet!

West County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Hours and Location

HOURS

Thursday – Friday, 1st Saturday of every month
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.)

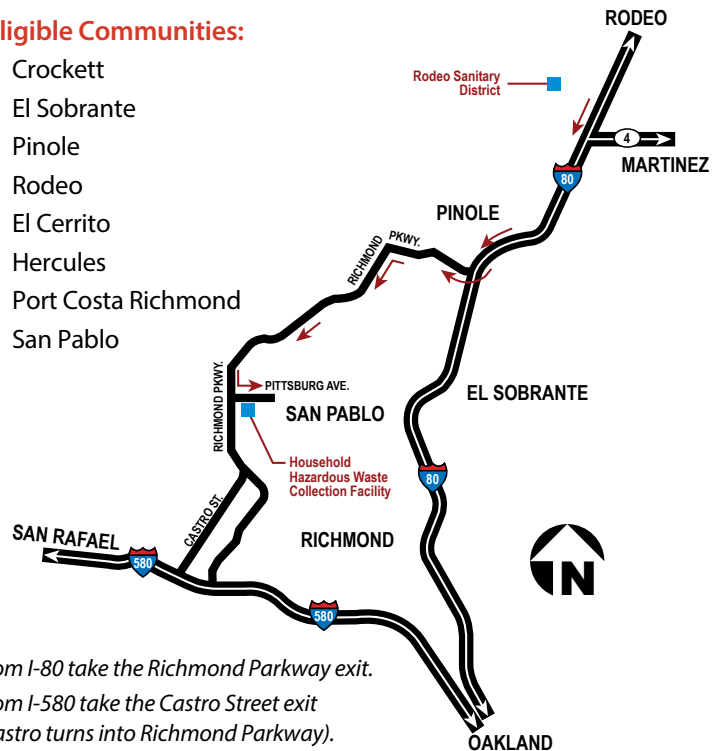
1-888-412-9277

Visit their website for more information and useful recycling tips:
www.recyclemore.com



Eligible Communities:

- > Crockett
- > El Sobrante
- > Pinole
- > Rodeo
- > El Cerrito
- > Hercules
- > Port Costa Richmond
- > San Pablo



- From I-80 take the Richmond Parkway exit.
- From I-580 take the Castro Street exit (Castro turns into Richmond Parkway).

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
101 Pittsburg Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801

About Rodeo Sanitary District

Rodeo Sanitary District is a special enterprise district that collects and cleans an average of 600,000 gallons of wastewater per day at its Treatment Plant in Rodeo. The District's service area includes all of Rodeo and the village of Tormey. The District serves 3,000 residences and businesses in western Contra Costa County.

Where to Call...

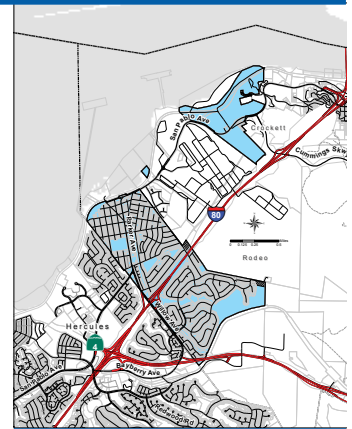
General information	(510) 799-2970 or www.rodeosan.org
Sewer overflows (When there's an overflow in the street or a backup in your home, call this number and in most cases, a crew will be there within an hour.)	(510) 799-2970
Garbage For new garbage service or changes to your existing service (Richmond Sanitary Service)	(510) 262-1610
Sewer connection permits	(510) 799-2970
To report illegal discharges into sewer system	(510) 799-2970

RSD Pipeline is brought to you by:
Board of Directors

Janet Callaghan, President
Connie Batchelder, Vice President • **Terry Tigh**, Board Director
Angela Noble, Board Director • **Richard Frakes**, Secretary

Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the John Swett Unified School District Board Room at 400 Parker Avenue.

Steven S. Beall, District Manager



The Rodeo Sanitary District PIPELINE

Printed and designed by the Rodeo Sanitary District, with the assistance of Claudia Langley from Carollo Engineers. This newsletter is published periodically to provide useful information to our customers. RSD would like to thank the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Michael Scahill) for allowing us to use the CCCSD Pipeline newsletter to form the RSD newsletter.

Steven S. Beall, Writer
Claudia Langley, Production Layout



Protecting Public Health and the Environment



800 San Pablo Avenue, Rodeo, CA 94572

Please recycle this newsletter.

