



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 25, 2007

Contact: Brad Sherwood
707.521.6204

Grease Clogs Sewer Line, Causes Wastewater Overflow

(Sonoma, CA) — Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) officials on Wednesday, January 24 responded to a wastewater overflow from a manhole located on Herbazal Street and South Temelec Circle in Sonoma. The cause of the overflow was determined to be caused by grease clogging a sewer line. The sewer line and manhole are part of Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's wastewater collection system. Approximately 1200 gallons of wastewater was released from the sewer line with approximately 150 gallons that overflowed into a nearby drain inlet. Work crews pumped the wastewater from the drain inlet and surveyed the vicinity to find no evidence of additional wastewater from the overflow. The remainder of the wastewater settled into the ground beneath the clogged sewer line immediately after the overflow was identified. The wastewater did not overflow into any waterways and no environmental impacts were found.

“This incident is a reminder to all residents not to pour fats, oils or grease down their drains,” said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer. “Grease easily clogs sewer lines and results in overflows.”

To keep pipes “Grease-Free”, the Agency encourages the following:

- Never pour fats, oils, or cooking grease down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Pour excess grease into a container with a tight fitting lid and freeze for disposal with your household garbage; and wipe the remaining grease from the pan with a scraper or paper towel.
- Place food scraps in appropriate waste containers or compost bins rather than into the drain or garbage disposal. For more information regarding the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease, call the Sonoma County Eco-Desk at 707-565-3375 or go to www.recyclenow.org.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Office of Emergency Services were notified of the overflow. The Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District sewer collection system is operated by the Sonoma County Water Agency.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.