



201 Vallecitos de Oro - San Marcos, California - 92069 - (760) 744-0460

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Lisa Urabe
(858) 882-7078

RESPONSIVE CLEAN UP EFFORTS BY VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT WILL MINIMIZE SEWER SPILL INTO SAN MARCOS CREEK

San Marcos, CA – The Vallecitos Water District experienced an overflow of approximately 3,000 gallons of wastewater solids this morning that spilled out of a pressurized sewer pipe located on Redwing Street in San Marcos and into a storm drain that releases into San Marcos Creek. Vallecitos crews acted quickly to contain the spill by placing barriers around the storm drain to minimize the amount of solids that flowed to the creek.

The cause of the spill was due to local corrosion on a 6” pressurized pipe. The pipe is used to transport solid material that is removed during the wastewater treatment process at the District’s Meadowlark Water Reclamation Facility in Carlsbad to the Encina Wastewater Authority, near the coast in Carlsbad, where it is further treated and recycled. The pipe has exceeded its useful life and as a result, the Vallecitos Board of Directors recently approved the replacement of the entire solids line pipe to prevent such occurrences from happening in the future.

Alarms in place notified Vallecitos staff of the spill at 3:13 A.M. Crews arrived at the spill site at 4:10 A.M. to contain the spill and investigate the cause. The remaining solids in the line were completely drained back to the Meadowlark plant to prevent further release. The spill was contained by 4:28 A.M.

Cleanup and recovery is currently in progress with pumping trucks to remove as much of the solid material as possible from the storm drain, and the pipe is in the process of being repaired. The proper agencies have been notified and per the request of the County Department of Environmental Health, Vallecitos crews posted signs along the San Marcos Creek where human contact may be possible.

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Vallecitos Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 94,000 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas. The public is invited to Board meetings, taking place at 4 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Vallecitos’ Administration, Maintenance, and Operations Facility - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos.