



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Essential Workers During Holidays Include West County Wastewater Staff**

December 22, 2025 (**Richmond, CA**). When you think of emergency working crews, people often think of the police, fire, and other emergency medical services. West County Wastewater, (WCW) located in Richmond, California, reminds the West Contra Costa County community that staff work 24/7, 365 days of the year to ensure the contents of the sewer lines flow to the Water Quality & Resource Recovery Plant (“Plant”) to be safely treated.

Without WCW staff, the holiday festivities could be unpleasantly interrupted by dirty, smelly, and often costly sewer overflows.

The most common cause of sewer overflows are fats, oils, and grease put down sink drains, which harden within the sewer line, making it difficult for the sewage to flow down to WCW’s wastewater treatment Plant. WCW treats the sewage coming into the Plant and uses it to create renewable energy and other beneficial reuses.

Fats, oil, and grease when mixed with wipes, (flushable or non-flushable) add to the problem because wipes don’t break down like toilet paper will and can quickly clog up the sewer lines.

WCW has Collection System Operation Crews who respond to sewer emergencies anytime of the day or night. During working hours, these same crews work with WCW Maintenance and Plant Operation’s staff to perform preventative maintenance including clearing out tree roots, wipes, and other damaging impediments that could cause sewer backups and overflows.

***If you see a sewer overflow in West Contra Costa County, please call  
WCW 24/7 at 510-222-6700.***

What can you do?

1. Only flush the 3 Ps (pee, poop, and toilet paper)!
2. Throw wipes away in the garbage can and don’t flush them!
3. No fats, oils, or grease down the sinks!

(Pictured below from left to right: 1) WCW crews performing preventative maintenance in West Contra Costa County, 2) WCW crew removing tree root from underground sewer lines, 3&4) tree roots, fats, oil, grease, and wipes causing sewer line blockages.)



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