



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Slow Leak Mitigated in El Sobrante**

(RICHMOND, CA) Early Saturday, June 17, West County Wastewater (WCW) crews became aware of a sewage release affecting San Pablo Creek in El Sobrante, near San Pablo Dam Road and Appian Way.

The overflow has been stopped, but to correct our initial response, it was not contained. Initially, there was a noticeable odor, but otherwise, there has been no direct impact on the public.

The cause of the spill was a sewer line blockage of grease and disposable wipes, which should not be flushed down toilets. When this happened, the sewage was diverted to an overflow line that was meant to handle excess sewage flows or back-ups. The release confirmed that the overflow line was broken. Although the spill rate was not substantial, the leak may have lasted ten days to two weeks.

WCW staff have been sampling and testing the water in the affected area, and the incident was reported to the State's monitoring board at 1:15 p.m. on June 17, 2023. A technical report will be sent to the State within 45 days of the incident.

WCW continues investigating this incident and will provide further information as it becomes available.

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*West County Wastewater (WCW) was founded in 1921 to protect and serve the public health of the community through the construction and maintenance of a sewer system. Today, WCW provides sewage collection, treatment and disposal services to approximately 34,000 residences and 2,450 commercial and industrial businesses. WCW serves a total population of about 100,000 residents across 16.9 square miles. Governed by a five-member Board of Directors, WCW embraces practices that promote energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.*