



Special points of interest:

- TV and our Storm Drains
- Coastal Cleanup Day
- Handling Wet Weather
- Sandbags

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**Sewer block or overflow?
Call us first!**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Currents

TV IN A STORM DRAIN?

It may look like a child's remote controlled toy, but the District's "pipe ranger," a digital camera on sturdy wheels, provides critical information for our preventive maintenance and inspection efforts.

"In the past, people took an out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach to sewer and storm drain maintenance: If it wasn't over-flowing, it must be working. These days we have a much more proactive approach," explains Ken Taylor, who supervises the District's 5-person TV crew. "Pipes were installed in Vallejo starting in the 1800s, and a variety of materials were used, some more successfully than others. Many things affect the life of a pipe: weather, materials used, earthquake and traffic vibrations, soil type and acidity, water, depth, tree roots and more."

During inspections, the District sends the pipe ranger into a sewer

manhole or a storm catch basin. Wires connect the mobile unit to a video and computer setup inside a truck. The inspector guides the route of the camera using a joystick, and gathers information about the size and condition of the pipe, noting where potential problems exist that may cause disruptions in service, the extent of pollution from illegal discharges, and the effectiveness of our own cleaning techniques.

It is a critical investigative tool for problem solving, and much less expensive than having to dig up pipes to collect the same type of information. Since the early 1990s we have used TV cameras to solve countless problems and improve our cleaning methods, thus saving money and increasing our effectiveness.



Vallejo Sanitation was a proud co-sponsor of Coastal Cleanup Day. We thank the nearly 350 volunteers and community partners who picked up almost 16.5 tons of trash, old tires, a Taser, needles, discarded toys, cigarette filters and much, much more. Because of your efforts, Vallejo is cleaner and safer than ever before. With your help, we'll work hard to keep it that way. Special thanks are due to our outstanding and hard-working partners at VALCORE Recycling, Vallejo Garbage Service, City of Vallejo Code Enforcement and Marina, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, the California Maritime Academy and Albertsons/Savon.

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