

# **ELEMENT 7. FOG CONTROL PROGRAM**

This SSMP element describes the City's fats, oils, and grease (FOG) control program for its wastewater collection system. The major items discussed in this element are as follows:

- Regulatory Requirements
- Public Outreach Program
- FOG Disposal Plan
- Legal Authorities
- Grease Removal Devices/Best Management Practices
- Inspection and Enforcement Staff
- Problem Areas
- Problem Area Source Control

## **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

WDR Element D-13-vii requires the following:

The City must prepare and implement a FOG source control program to reduce the amount of these substances discharged to the sanitary sewer system. This plan includes the components listed in Table 7-1, as appropriate.

**Table 7-1. FOG Control Program Requirements**

Regulation Number	Heading Under Which Addressed	Required Component
D-13.(vii)	Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program	Each Enrollee shall evaluate its service area to determine whether a FOG control program is needed. If an Enrollee determines that a FOG program is not needed, the Enrollee must provide justification for why it is not needed. If FOG is found to be a problem, the Enrollee must prepare and implement a FOG source control program to reduce the amount of these substances discharged to the sanitary sewer system. This plan shall include the following as appropriate:
D-13-vii(a)	Public Outreach Program	An implementation plan and schedule for a public education outreach program that promotes proper disposal of FOG
D-13-vii(b)	FOG Disposal Plan	A plan and schedule for the disposal of FOG generated within the sanitary sewer system service area. This may include a list of acceptable disposal facilities and/or additional facilities needed to adequately dispose of FOG generated within a sanitary sewer system service area
D-13-vii(c)	Legal Authorities	The legal authority to prohibit discharges to the system and identify measures to prevent SSOs and blockages caused by FOG
D-13-vii(d)	Grease Removal Devices/ Best Management Practices	Requirements to install grease removal devices (such as traps or interceptors), design standards for the removal devices, maintenance requirements, BMP requirements, record keeping and reporting requirements
D-13-vii(e)	Inspection and Enforcement Staff	Authority to inspect grease producing facilities, enforcement authorities, and whether the City has sufficient staff to inspect and enforce the FOG ordinance
D-13-vii(f)	Problem Areas	An identification of sanitary sewer system sections subject to FOG blockages and establishment of a cleaning maintenance schedule for each section
D-13-vii(g)	Problem Area Source Control	Development and implementation of source control measures for all sources of FOG discharged to the sanitary sewer system for each section identified in (f) above

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The City's FOG Public Education Activities and Outreach Program is documented on an internal spreadsheet available from Utilities Department Water Quality Division. It details the FOG radio campaign, FOG literature distributed to residents and businesses, and the FOG Webpage.

The SSMP Manager is closely following proposed State regulations such as AB 1672 (Bloom, 2019) to address wet wipes that are known to cause sanitary sewer overflows by exasperating FOG issues and disrupting the operation of wastewater pumps. UD staff will include wet wipes in the public outreach effort to mitigate negative impacts in the sanitary sewer system.

## **FOG DISPOSAL PLAN**

The City's FOG Control Program includes a FOG disposal plan which is available to the commercial septage/FOG haulers. The City's Easterly WWTP accepts FOG at its septage receiving facility that was constructed in 2005. As the community grows and the treatment plant is expanded to accommodate that growth, the City will periodically assess the ability of the treatment plant to accommodate the anticipated amount of FOG and adjust operational practices or modify facilities when necessary to meet the needs of the service area. Funding for such operational changes or facility modifications will be provided by a combination of operation and maintenance charges and fees paid by the commercial septage/FOG haulers. FOG removed from Vacaville is also accepted by East Bay Municipal Utilities District at its wastewater treatment plant.

## **LEGAL AUTHORITIES**

City Municipal Code Section 13.08.451 establishes the legal authority for the FOG Control Program. This is also discussed in Section 3, Legal Authority, of this document. The Municipal Code Section 13.08 Sewers can be downloaded at the following internet address: <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Vacaville/#!/Vacaville13/Vacaville1308.html> and is also attached in Element 3.

## **GREASE REMOVAL DEVICES/BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

The City requires installation and proper maintenance of grease removal devices in food service establishments (FSEs). The California Plumbing Code, which was codified by the City in City Municipal Code Section 14.20.252 Construction Code, California Plumbing Code, requires that all new FSEs install grease removal devices—the subject code can be downloaded at the internet address <http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/vacaville/>. The City also can require that an existing FSE (without a grease removal device) install one if, through Utilities Department's Pretreatment Program, the City can prove that the FSE is contributing to a sewer blockage or overflow. The California Plumbing Code specifies the design standards for grease removal devices installed in the City. Maintenance (such as cleaning), record keeping, and reporting requirements for grease removal devices are specified in Municipal Code Section 13.08.451—Fats, Oils and Grease Control. The Element also requires that any FSE upstream of a FOG problem area (not just FSEs that can be proven to be causing a FOG problem) in the collection system install a grease removal device. The City has Best Management Practices (BMP) requirements for FOG disposal

in Food Service Establishments (FSEs) listed in the Municipal Code Section 13.08.451– Fats, Oils and Grease Control.

## **INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT STAFF**

Section 13.08.451C. of the City of Vacaville Municipal Code (VMC) provides city staff with the authority to inspect Food Service Establishments (FSE) for compliance with FOG control requirements established under sections 13.08.451. Enforcement authority of the aforementioned section is provided under sections 13.08.580 through 13.08.690 and can consist of verbal warnings, written warnings, notices of violation (NOV), administrative orders, administrative civil liability and the imposition fines, emergency abatement, and abatement proceedings as set forth in VMC Chapter 8.10.

The Utilities Department - Water Quality Pretreatment Section is responsible for ensuring that FSE's comply with the FOG control requirements of the VMC and taking enforcement when appropriate. This is accomplished by two Environmental Compliance Inspectors (ECIs) whose main responsibilities include regulatory monitoring of the City's thirteen (13) permitted industrial dischargers and periodic and or on-demand inspection of the 180+/- Food Service Establishments (FSEs).

Public Works Field Utilities Maintenance crews conduct routine sewer line inspections with closed circuit video cameras to determine areas where FSEs are causing FOG accumulation in the collection system. They will in turn notify the ECIs who will conduct on-demand FOG inspections of the suspect FSEs. In general, the inspections consist of visual examination of the condition of grease removal devices, pump out records, a review of kitchen FOG practices, and FOG disposal BMPs.

As required under the MRP section of the WDR SSOs, including FOG related, are reported and tracked in the California Integrated Water Quality System. In addition, the City tracks SSOs within its geographic information system (GIS). These two resources allow the City to identify FOG related SSO hotspot areas and to prioritize and set a frequency for conducting FOG inspections of FSEs tributary to the hotspot areas.

Any new construction or remodeling of FSEs must apply for a building permit through the Community Development Department. Through this process, the Community Development Department Building Division plan checks all remodel and new FSEs for compliance with the Plumbing Code and the Municipal Code regarding grease removal devices. It is the responsibility of the Community Development Department Building Inspectors to inspect grease removal device installations in the field before building occupancy.

## **PROBLEM AREAS**

The City has a list of sewers that experience FOG problems, along with an increased-frequency cleaning schedule for those sewers. The problem area list and cleaning schedule are discussed in Element 4, O&M Program.

## **PROBLEM AREA SOURCE CONTROL**

The City has developed and is implementing source control measures for FOG sources (FOG dischargers to the collection system) tributary to the problem areas. Source control measures include the city's fog disposal public outreach program and requirements for grease removal devices and for fog disposal BMPs.

**EXHIBIT 7-A**

## COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

### Pretreatment

The City of Vacaville Pretreatment Program was created to meet [US EPA pretreatment regulations](#). Under the Pretreatment Program, certain industries must be permitted and monitored to ensure they meet wastewater discharge requirements [[Vacaville Municipal Code Chapter 13.08](#)]. These requirements help keep our waters clean.

You can call **(707) 469-6400** with any questions.

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

Businesses in Vacaville can drop off hazardous waste at the local hazardous waste center:

[Recology Vacaville Solano Hazardous Waste Center](#)

855 1/2 Davis Street

Vacaville, CA 95687

**Call 1-800-207-8222** to schedule an appointment.

### FOG's

When fats, oils and grease cool they solidify and can cause severe problems including:

- Sewer backups and overflows
- Negative impacts on treatment plant operating efficiency
- Odors and infrastructure corrosion

To limit fats, oils and grease from entering the storm or sanitary sewer system;

- Scrape and wipe down pots, pans and work areas prior to washing
- Dispose of food waste in the appropriate bin
- Periodically check waste bins to ensure they are free of any leaks
- Routinely clean grease traps and interceptors

**Click to download the [Grease Menace brochure](#) (En Español).**

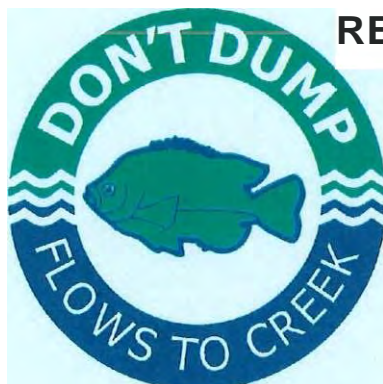
**[Click Here](#) to download the best management practices poster.**

### Mandatory Organic Recycling

In September 2014, the Governor signed into law California Assembly Bill 1826. This law requires commercial businesses to recycle their organic waste to keep this waste out of landfills.

Beginning January 1, 2019, any business that generates 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste each week must recycle its organic waste.

Vacaville Recycling has additional information on what you can do to meet these requirements.



## REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

**Call: 707-469-6400**

**Mon-Fri Sam-4:30pm**

**After  
Hours: 707-449-5200**



**EXHIBIT 7-B**

# Residents declare war on the Grease Menace.

## Here's the battle plan:

- Make sure your kitchen drains have screens.
- Throw grease and table scraps in the trash.
- Never pour grease or oil down the drain.
- Wipe or scrape dishes before washing.
- Don't use hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain – it will cool and harden in the sewer line.



City of Vacaville Public Works Utilities  
Pretreatment FOG Program  
Vacaville, CA 95688

City of Vacaville Public Works Utilities  
Pretreatment FOG Program  
(707)469-6400

# GREASE MENACE



A real  
**PAIN**  
in the  
Drain



# How does the Grease Menace get into your sewer?

When you put cooking waste, like grease, oil and food scraps, down the drain, it clings to the sides of your sewer pipes. This **Grease Menace** clogs your pipes and causes sewer back-ups.

# Grease is a menace to your sewer line.

Never pour grease down the drain.

## Here is why....

- It clogs your sewer line, resulting in an expensive visit from the plumber .
- It plugs city sewer lines and makes it harder to treat waste water . The cost of cleaning and repairs leads to higher sewer rates for you.
- It causes sewer back-ups which are hazardous to your health and harm the environment.

## Fight the Grease Menace:

- 1 Pour grease from cooking into a can, let it cool, and throw it in the trash.
- 2 Throw food waste into the trash; not down the drain.

Recycle all used fryer oils. Residents can recycle oils at the:

- 3 **Vacaville Sanitary Service Recycling Center at 855½ Davis Street, Open Saturdays 9am to 2pm**

City of Vacaville Public Works Utilities  
Pretreatment FOG Program  
(707) 469-6400



For more pollution prevention information please visit  
[www.vacavillestormwater.com](http://www.vacavillestormwater.com)

**EXHIBIT 7-C**

# NO GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!

## KEEP DRAINS FLOWING

**WIPE FOOD AND GREASE OUT OF POTS BEFORE WASHING AND DISCARD WASTE INTO THE TRASH**



**COLLECT AND RECYCLE USED COOKING OIL**

**HAVE GREASE INTERCEPTORS AND TRAPS CLEANED ON A ROUTINE SCHEDULE**



**USE ABSORBENTS TO CLEAN UP GREASY SPILLS BEFORE MOPPING**



**WHEN KITCHEN DRAINS ARE FLOWING, BUSINESS KEEPS FLOWING TOO.**



EBMUD • Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) • The California Fats, Oils, and Grease Work Group (Cal FOG) • The California Restaurant Association (CRA)

City of Vacaville - Utilities Department  
Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) Program (707)-469-6400

For more pollution prevention information please visit our website at [www.vacavillestormwater.com](http://www.vacavillestormwater.com)

# ¡NO TIRES GRASA AL DESAGÜE!

## MANTENGA LIBRE EL FLUJO A LA TUBERÍA DEL DESAGÜE

**QUITE LOS RESTOS DE COMIDA Y GRASA Y TÍRELAS A LA BASURA ANTES DE LAVAR LAS OLLAS**



**JUNTEY RECICLE EL ACEITE DE COCINA**

**LIMPIE LAS COLADERAS E INTERCEPTORES DE GRASA CON REGULARIDAD**



**USE MATERIALES ABSORBENTES PARA RECOGER LA GRASA QUE SE HAYA CAIDO ANTES DE TRAPEAR EL PISO**



## SU EMPRESA SE MANTIENE A FLOTE CUANDO EL AGUA FLUYE EN EL DESAGÜE DE LA COCINA.



EBMUD • Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG) • The California Fats, Oils, and Grease Work Group (Cal FOG) • The California Restaurant Association (CRA)

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**EXHIBIT 7-D**

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### Brochures and Flyers

Stormwater Education

Home Pest Management

Pesticide Use & Disposal

It's a Toilet. Not a Trash Can

Grease Menace Brochure (En Español)

### Lesson Plans

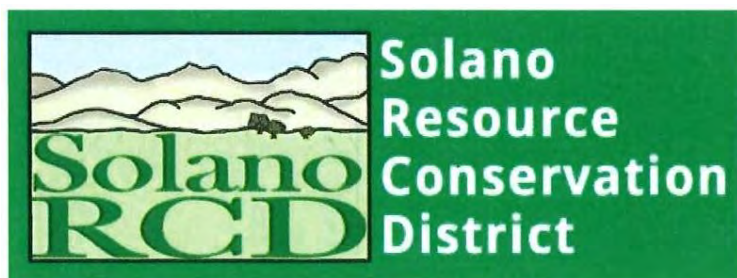
Happy the Fish

Plastic. Plastic Everywhere!

### Coloring Book

Water Cycle Coloring Book (En Español)

For more information and activities for Solano County, visit the Solano Resource Conservation District website.







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# WIPES CLOG PIPES



### FLUSHED WIPES

Flushing wet wipes down the toilet can clog plumbing systems, leading to expensive repairs. Many people don't know that wipes shouldn't go in the toilet and pose a risk for sewer infrastructure.



### CLOGGED SEWER LINES

Wipes make their way into private sewer laterals, septic systems, and sewer lines and can cause extensive harm and result in overflows and property damage.



### SEWER OVERFLOWS

Once wipes make it to the sewer collection system, they can catch on roots that infiltrate pipes, weave together to form large rags and attract fats, oils and grease. This can result in blockages and sewer spills.



### ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

Even when wipes filter out of the wastewater stream, small microfibers and microplastics can shed off wipes. These fibers can't be captured and can make their way into the environment.



### DISRUPTED TREATMENT PLANTS

Oftentimes, masses of wipes manage to make it through the collection system and end up at wastewater treatment plants, which can result in significant damage to treatment infrastructure and recurrent disruption of the treatment process.



### DAMAGED COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Most collection systems rely on pumps to move wastewater to treatment facilities. Wipes can clog these pumps, resulting in spills, system failures, increased maintenance requirements and damage to expensive equipment.



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SANITATION AGENCIES

[casaweb.org/wipes](http://casaweb.org/wipes)