



## Illegal Discharge Threatens District's Sewer System!

The St. Vrain Sanitation District is calling on the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity related to illegal discharges into the sewer system.

On the morning of Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, treatment plant staff observed an odor and an oily sheen on incoming wastewater. This illicit

discharge likely happened sometime during the late hours on Wednesday night, and it made its way through the collection system into the treatment works. The treatment facility operated as designed, however the substance was not completely removed and some portion passed-through into the St. Vrain Creek.

Pass through is a violation of the District's NPDES discharge permit, and is a very serious matter. Fortunately there has been no observable damage done to the collection system, the plant, or the creek. We believe this was a petroleum-based product that was illegally dumped due to the sheen and the distinctive odor observed.

Per the District's Rules and Regulations, Section 10.2.1(B)(6-7) Prohibited Discharge Standards: Petroleum oil in amounts that will cause pass-through, ... or pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes are strictly prohibited.

District Manager Rob Fleck stated, "We must protect the wastewater treatment system and maintain the integrity of this area's water resources. We encourage the public to help in this critical endeavor. If you see something, say something."

Residents and businesses are reminded to dispose of waste responsibly through approved methods, such as recycling programs and hazardous waste disposal centers. Proper waste disposal not only safeguards the environment and public health but also helps maintain the efficient operation of essential infrastructure like the biological wastewater treatment plant.



**Tampering with Manholes or Pumper Trucks:** If you witness anyone attempting to open or tamper with sewer manholes, or pumper trucks dumping into manholes, please take a photo and report it immediately.



Anyone with information regarding this, or any source of illegal discharge is urged to contact the District's **emergency line at 303-994-7572 or your local police department**. Let's work together to protect the regions water resources and ensure a clean and safe environment for all.