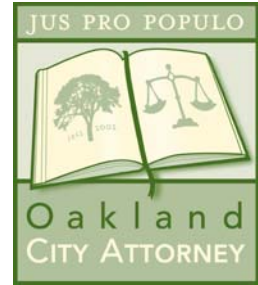




Oakland City Attorney's Office
Oakland Public Works Agency

Media Release

Friday, December 11, 2009



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland to Work with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sewer Repair

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland will continue to work cooperatively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to repair aging sewers, upgrade pipes and prevent spills following a lawsuit filed by the EPA last week against seven municipal sewage collection systems in the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

The lawsuit – filed against Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont, Berkeley, Alameda, Albany and the Stege Sanitary District – comes after a November administrative order by the federal agency that aims to facilitate negotiations on the monitoring and repair of sewer systems in communities served by EBMUD.

Oakland officials said the complaint will prompt continued negotiations between the City and the EPA on wastewater collection issues associated with the City's 1,034 miles of sewers.

Over the last two decades, Oakland has undergone a massive effort to repair and replace aging sewers – some of them more than 100 years old.

Under a previous order, Oakland has spent more than \$186 million over about 20 years to reduce overflows and minimize infiltration of storm water. Today, thanks to repairs funded by Oakland's sewer service charge, storm water infiltration has been reduced by half of what it was in the 1980s, and renovations are continuing.

Nevertheless, sewer pipes occasionally become blocked with tree roots, grease dumped from restaurants and businesses and other obstructions, causing sewers to overflow. In Oakland, overflows from the sewer system represent about **0.002 percent** of the total annual flow. The City continues to work to reduce that number to as close to zero as possible.

“As we enter the rainy season, Oakland is preparing to deal with any overflows in the most aggressive way possible,” said Vitaly Troyan, Oakland's Interim Public Works Director. “As we move forward, we will work with the EPA to identify cost-effective solutions that will protect our streets, our citizens and our environment while recognizing the rate payers' ability to fund additional sewer improvements.”
