

**Residential Fats, Oils, and Grease Source Control Program:  
Regional Coordination to Raise Awareness on Grease Issues  
News Release, Russian River Watershed Association –  
7/19/06**

(Russian River watershed, CA) – Local agencies and special districts have come together to develop and implement a multi-year Residential Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Source Control Program to increase public awareness of specifically residential FOG-related issues, and reduce the number of FOG-related sanitary sewer overflows.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking and is often washed into the sewer through the kitchen sink. Grease is problematic for sewers because it sticks to the insides of the pipes and builds up over time causing blockages and eventually overflows which can damage your home and the environment. These types of grease-related sewer spills are preventable through simple measures in the home which is the target of the Residential FOG Program. Through this program, the Russian River Watershed Association is working to alert local residents to grease-related issues, “Fat-Free Sewers - Keep Grease Out of the Drain!”

The RRWA Residential FOG Source Control Program consists of raising awareness through outreach materials including flyers, stickers, door-hangers, and grease scrapers. These materials will be distributed in residential areas (where FOG issues have caused sanitary sewer overflows), local markets including the Pacific Market and Oliver’s Market, and local libraries and education centers. Don’t be surprised to see door-hangers and grease scrapers labeled with the 1950’s retro-style regional graphic displaying the message “From the Pan to the Can” appearing in your neighborhood soon.

"This is a very important program for our community. Keeping grease out of the drain benefits the homeowner, maintenance crews, and the environment by reducing sanitary sewer overflows. We are very supportive of the public education efforts of the fats, oils, and grease residential campaign. "

*- Richard Burt, Windsor Public Works Director*

As part of the Residential FOG Program, a holiday campaign will begin this fall to target the holiday cooking rush, when people start to make heavy use of their kitchens. A student video contest will also be held this winter in

which students produce public service videos focusing on grease-related issues. The winning videos will be used for public service announcements and other outreach opportunities.

“The City of Santa Rosa is enthusiastically supporting RRWA with its program; we have had a similar localized FOG program in place for several years, and have seen very positive results from our program including reductions in sewage backups and overflows.” –*Miles Ferris, Santa Rosa Director of Utilities*

If you would like to learn more about the residential FOG program or other RRWA programs - please contact us at 707.833.2553, or visit [www.rrwatershed.org](http://www.rrwatershed.org).

*The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of eleven cities, counties, and special districts in the Russian River watershed that are working together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement.*