

# City of Vacaville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CITY RESPONDS TO FINES LEVIED BY REGIONAL WATER BOARD**

The City of Vacaville has been assessed a fine of \$72,000 by the Central Valley Region Water Board for exceeding discharge standards over the last four years at the Easterly Wasterwater Treatment Plant.

The Board took this action based on regular reports the City is required to submit.

Discharge standards exceeded included chlorine residuals, pH, and total coliform. A total of 18 incidents were reported between April 2004 and December 2007. The fine was assessed in June 2008 and paid this month.

“All were minor incidents of a short duration and many were associated with the startup of the new plant,” said Dave Tompkins, Director of Utilities. “While we’re not happy with the fine, there was no detected threats to the public and wildlife.”

While the City considers the incidents to be minor, under SB 709 the minimum fine for any violation is \$3,000 regardless of severity or duration.

Wastewater treated at the Easterly plant enters Alamo Creek after going through a series of treatment systems. The plant operates 24 hours a day and treats 8.5 million gallons of effluent a day – over 31 billion gallons annually. City laboratory analysts perform daily tests on Easterly plant effluent for a variety of constituents. In addition to daily water quality tests, the plant also has continuous on-line monitoring for chlorine residual and pH.

“Naturally we’re concerned about water quality and the environment, and we make every effort to assure the water we treat is the safest it can be,” Tompkins said.

One of the features of the new plant is an Effluent Diversion Structure. This structure is designed to redirect all non-compliant flows to a separate basin until the effluent is back into compliance. This system is designed to minimize future chlorine and pH problems.

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