

Draft letter regarding stormwater connections to the wastewater system

DRAFT 12-30-22

Dear Water and Wastewater Customer,

It has come to the attention of the Water Resources Department that there are properties in Richmond which have storm drains and/or sump pumps connected to the wastewater system. These connections are in violation of Article V, Sec. 1 of the Richmond Sewer Ordinance. The increased flow from such connections puts added stress on the wastewater treatment facility, increases treatment costs, increases the staff time needed for treatment, and could lead to the discharge of untreated wastewater which is an environmental hazard.

The Water Resources Department will be working with all customers on the wastewater system to disconnect illegal stormwater connections. If you know that your building's stormwater system is connected to the wastewater system, please contact the Water Resources Department so we can help you develop a plan for disconnection. If you are unsure if your building's stormwater is connected to the wastewater system, please contact the Water Resources Department and we can help you determine if you are connected.

The cost of disconnection and redirection of stormwater will be borne by the property owner. The Ordinance allows for the Water and Sewer Commission to assess fees of up to \$1,000.00 per day for every day that the violation is in existence. The Commission will work with property owners to develop a reasonable timeframe to come into compliance once an illegal connection is discovered. The goal of the Commission is not to fine customers, but to protect the wastewater system by working with customers to disconnect illegal connections.

Please reach out to the Water Resources Department for more information or to schedule a site visit to inspect your stormwater system.

Interim Water and Wastewater Superintendent Allen Carpenter

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Sincerely,

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