

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Major Rain Event Deluges Sewer System And Causes Spill in San Anselmo**

**March 24, 2011, San Anselmo, CA.** Ross Valley Sanitary District, the 111-year-old sewer agency serving the Ross Valley, experienced an approximately 9,000-gallon sanitary sewer overflow that began at 11:30 a.m. during a major rain event. District crews discovered a manhole overflowing at the intersections of San Anselmo and San Rafael Avenue as well as two adjacent manholes overflowing on San Anselmo Avenue.

“Based on the volume of rain that fell in such a short time, we believe the cause of the spill was a system capacity issue,” said John Clark, Chief of Operations for the Ross Valley Sanitary District. “Our crews were answering a call from Ross about a spill that turned out to be a storm drain overflowing, just prior to discovering the spill in San Anselmo. When rain falls this hard, fast and long it can not only overwhelm storm drains, but can enter and overwhelm our sewer system.”

Crews estimated the size of the spill by using industry-standard visual flow calculations. The estimated 9,000 gallons is about one fifth the volume of an average residential swimming pool. Engineers will confirm and/or update the size of the spill when calculations are completed. The spill entered storm drains that flow into local waterways.

The spill was reported immediately to all regulatory agencies and Ross Valley senior staff alerted officials in the towns of San Anselmo, Ross and Larkspur. Crews on-sight stated that they had not seen rain fall as fast or creeks rise as fast as they did today in many years. Guestimates are that several inches of rain fell at this location in less than one hour, exceeding sewer pipe capacity.