

Case Scenario

From Unknown Source to Identified Responsible Party

Enforcement Challenges with Mobile Food Vendors Operating After Hours



Eric Uldrick
Environmental Inspector II
Watershed Enforcement
June 16, 2025



Environmental Services



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Initial IND Inspection of Property Owner



Discolored water observed after rain event. Unknown source. Phone numbers disconnected. Report mailed. Site had previous IDDE from hot dog cart pre-C ovid.

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Location of Storm Drain Inlet



Dumpsters, tallow bin, rear door of food service establishment not nearby

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2nd Inspection of Property Owner



Evidence of fats, oils, grease. Spoke to tenants who provided alternative phone number. Unable to contact property owner. Report mailed

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3rd Inspection of Property Owner



Fats, Oils, and Grease observed in drain inlet (deep catch basin). Spoke to tenant again who claims discharge is from food truck

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3rd Inspection of Property Owner

Ways of Contacting Property Owner

- City records (AMANDA database)
- Mail/email
- Tow away signs
- Speaking with tenants

- Asking lots of questions

- Arranging to speak to food trucks with translation service

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Environmental Services Department
WATERSHED PROTECTION DIVISION

Referral to Administrative Citation
WITH FINES UP TO \$2,500 PER VIOLATION PER DAY

Facility Name: Alum Rock Plaza	Responsible Person: [REDACTED]	
Facility ID: 109847		
Address: [REDACTED]	Phone: (Bus [REDACTED])	Issue Date: 02/21/2025

This warning is to notify you of violations of the Municipal or Sanitary District Code as noted below. You are hereby notified to take appropriate remedial actions to avoid additional legal actions from being taken against you.

Municipal or Sanitary District Code Violations

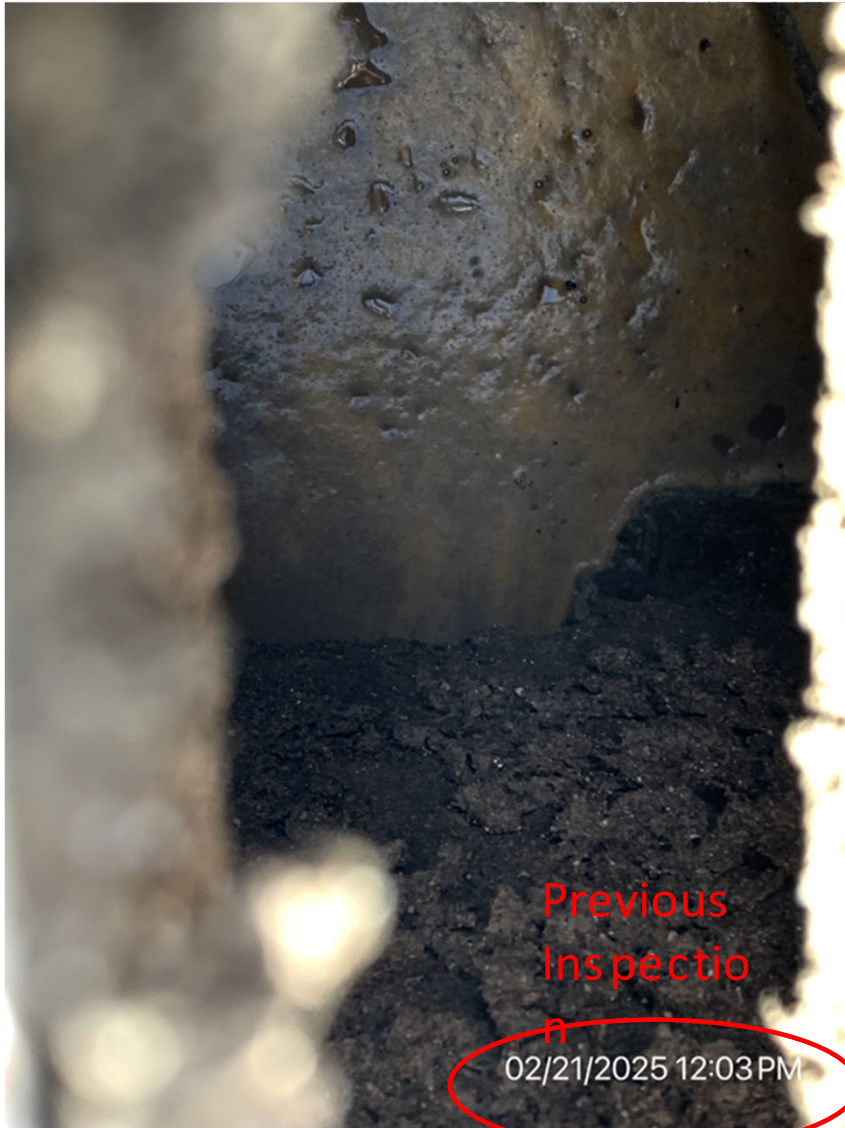
Violation / Remedial Action	Due
2/21/25 Food/oil and grease discharges Cease discharge to storm drain and/or receiving water	2/24/25

Notes/Comments
Referral for Administrative Citation is issued due to fats, oils, and grease observed in catch basin in driveway.



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4th Inspection of Property Owner



Phone call with property owner who stated that plumber already cleaned drain

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4th Inspection of Property Owner

How to secure property

- Gates
- Cameras
- Security

Additional issues

- Loitering
- Presence and activities of unhoused individuals



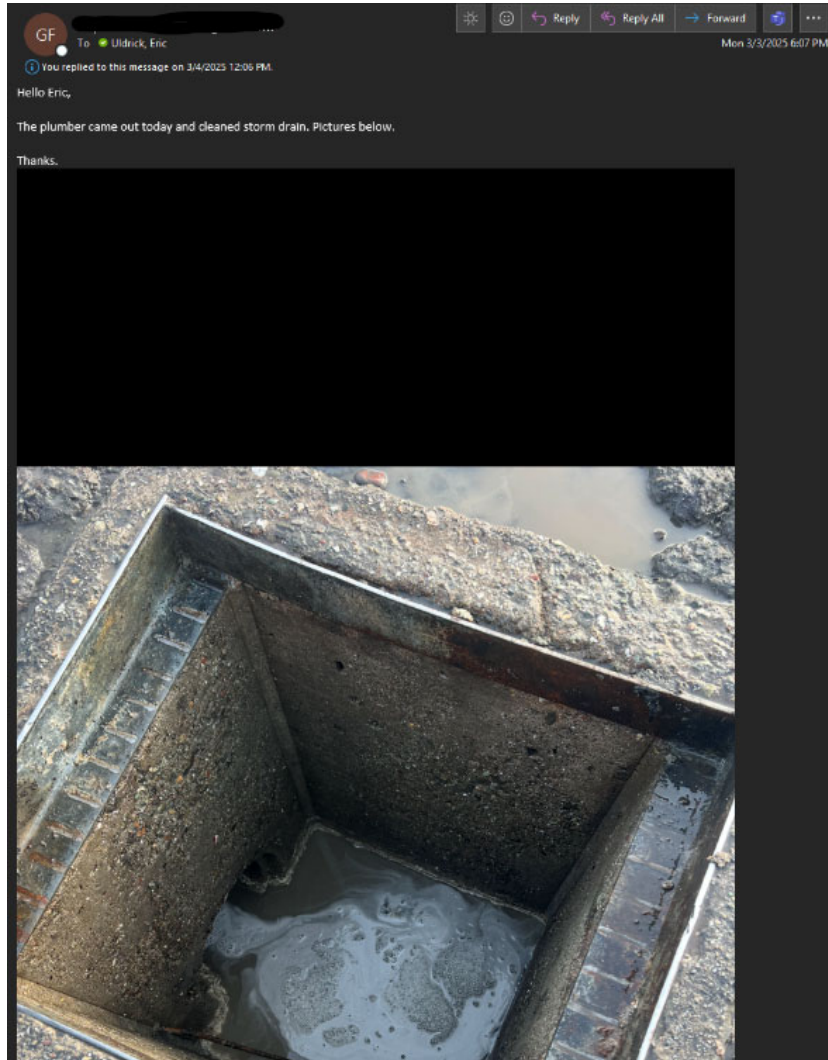
Transition of enforcement from IND (property owner) to IDDE (food truck)



Tenants claim discharge is from food truck across the street

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IDDE case against food – Day 1



Email received
3/3/2025 at 6:07 PM

“The plumber
came out today
and cleaned
storm drain.
Pictures
below.”



Email from property owner of storm drain cleaning

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our health, environment, and economy.

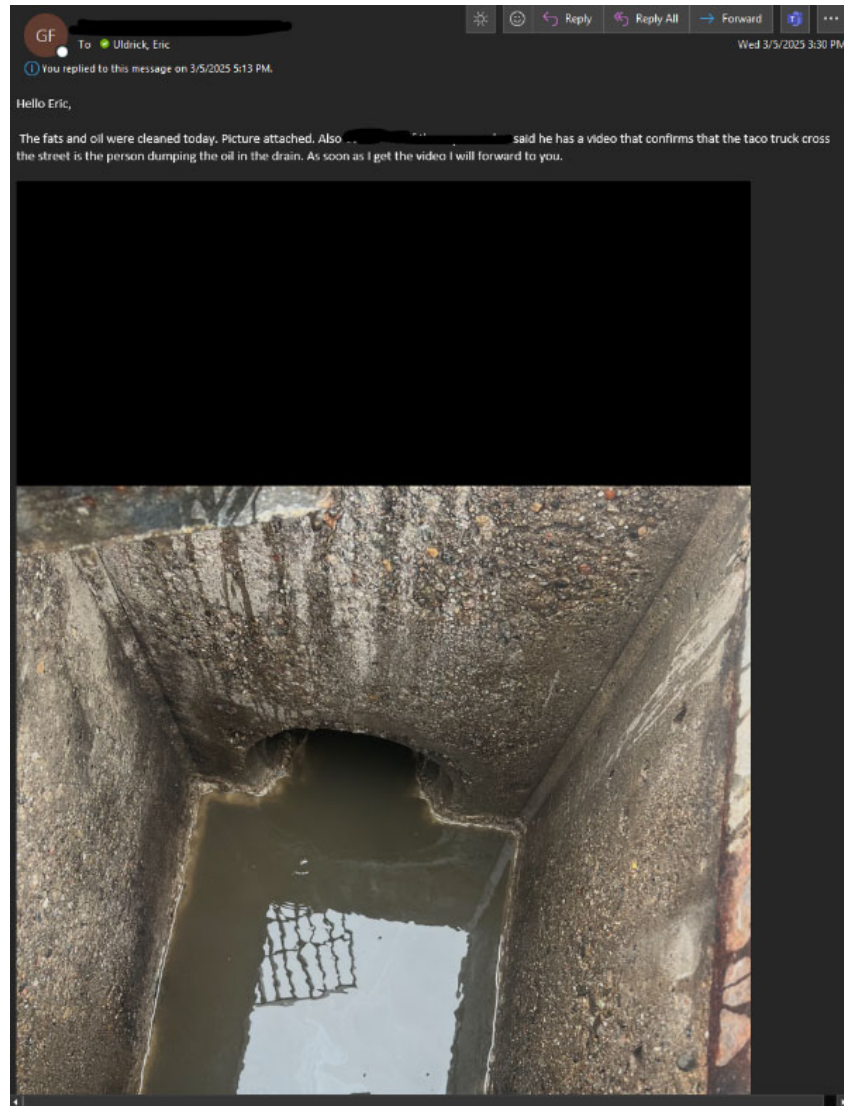
IDDE case against food truck – Day 2



Evidence of additional discharge observed next morning after cleaning

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 3



Email received from Property Owner on 3/5/2025 at 3:30 PM

“The fats and oil were cleaned today. Picture attached. Also [name retracted] said he has a video that confirm that the taco truck cross the street is the person dumping the oil in the drain ”

Email from property owner of storm drain cleaning

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 3



Evidence of additional discharge observed

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 3

Video
received

Statement from
tenant:
“They dump
almost every night
for at least the last
six months”



Food truck pulls up to storm drain

IDDE case against food truck – Day 3

Video received

Statement from tenant:
“They dump almost every night for at least the last six months”



Food truck aligns with storm drain

IDDE case against food truck – Day 3

Video
received

Statement from
tenant:
“They dump
almost every night
for at least the last
six months”



Employee opens food truck wastewater tank

IDDE case against food truck – Day 3

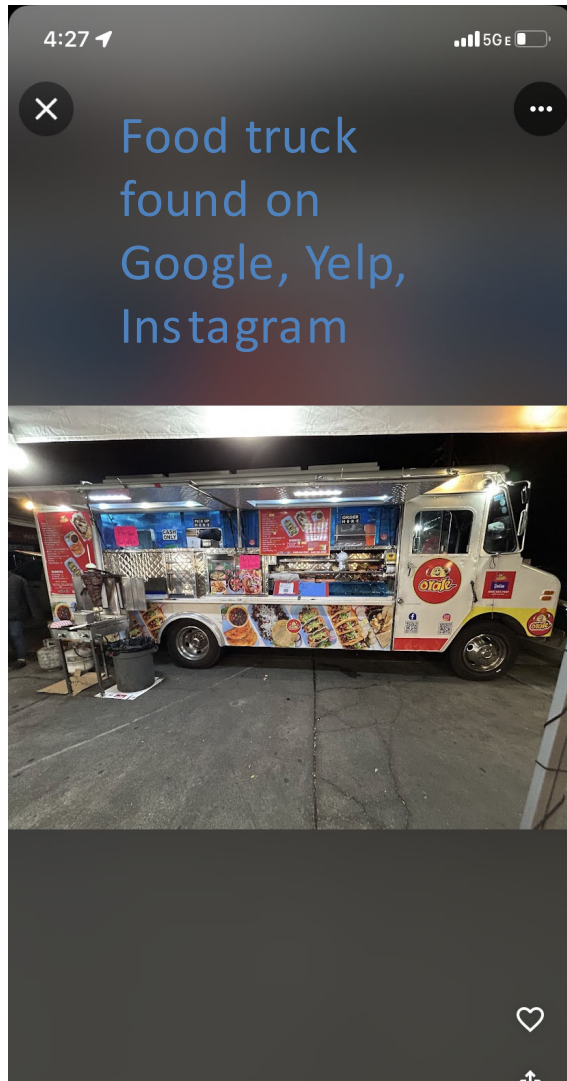
Video
received

Statement from
tenant:
“They dump
almost every night
for at least the last
six months”



Truck empties holding tank

IDDE case against food truck – Day 4



- City of San Jose Business Tax Certificate
- Listed on Secretary of State
- Same owner listed at stationary food service establishment

Searching social media and linking business tax certificate to business

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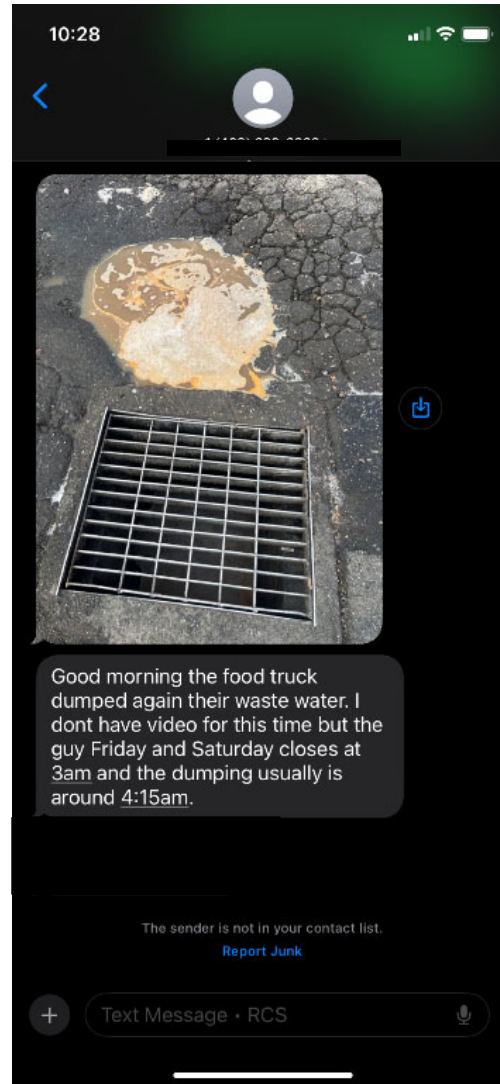
IDDE case against food truck – Day 4



No changes in appearance of drain since previous day

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 5



Another text received showing additional discharge

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 5



Discharge verified

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 5



Did not observed evidence of grease in outfall to creek

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IDDE case against food truck – Day 5



Food truck located at residential mailing address

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Enforcement

Three Administrative Citation Referrals (highest enforcement level that can be issued in field) for days we have strong evidence of discharge

CORRECTION NOTICE
 OFFICIAL WARNING NOTICE
 ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION REFERRAL

Environmental Services Department
 Watershed Protection
 Watershed Enforcement
 200 East Santa Clara Street, 7th Floor Tower
 San Jose, CA 95113
 (408) 945-3000

CITY OF SAN JOSE
 CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Date Issued: 3/7/2025

TO: Oracle Taco Truck Inc
 LOCATION: [REDACTED] VEH. LICENSE: [REDACTED]

This violation is in violation of the San José Municipal Code (S.J.M.C.) as noted below. You are hereby notified to take appropriate remedial action to avoid additional legal actions from being taken against you.

San José Municipal Code Violations

15.14.515 Discharge of water into storm drain
 15.14.530 Discharge of industrial discharge
 Other Code

*SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FINE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTION: Discharge of wastewater from food truck into storm drain located at 2227 Alum Rock on 3/7/2025

REMEDIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED:	DUE DATE:
- Cease Discharge	3/7/2025
- Clean up discharge	3/11/2025
- Clean out / pump out drain inlet	3/11/2025
- Effect method to protect storm drain	3/11/25
- provide written standard operating procedures to prevent future discharge	
- Provide in writing where washwater will be disposed	

Eric Aldrick
 439-1055

ALL REMEDIAL ACTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT RAIN EVENT BUT NOT LONGER THAN THE RESPONSE DUE DATE.

CORRECTION NOTICE
 OFFICIAL WARNING NOTICE
 ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION REFERRAL

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 Watershed Protection
 Watershed Enforcement
 200 East Santa Clara Street, 7th Floor Tower
 San Jose, CA 95113
 (408) 945-3000

CITY OF SAN JOSE
 CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Date Issued: 3/4/2025

TO: Oracle Taco Truck Inc
 LOCATION: [REDACTED] VEH. LICENSE: [REDACTED]

This violation is in violation of the San José Municipal Code (S.J.M.C.) as noted below. You are hereby notified to take appropriate remedial action to avoid additional legal actions from being taken against you.

San José Municipal Code Violations

15.14.515 Discharge of water into storm drain
 15.14.530 Discharge of industrial discharge
 Other Code

*SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FINE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTION: Discharge of wash water from food truck into storm drain located at 2227 Alum Rock on 3/4/2025

REMEDIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED:	DUE DATE:
- Cease Discharge	3/5/2025
- Clean up discharge	3/11/2025
- Clean out / Pump out drain inlet	3/11/2025
- Effect Method to protect storm drain	
- MUST contact Property Owner prior to cleaning. ALL water must be collected and discharged to sanitary system	

Eric Aldrick
 439-1055

ALL REMEDIAL ACTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT RAIN EVENT BUT NOT LONGER THAN THE RESPONSE DUE DATE.

CORRECTION NOTICE
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Environmental Services Department
 Watershed Protection
 Watershed Enforcement
 200 East Santa Clara Street, 7th Floor Tower
 San Jose, CA 95113
 (408) 945-3000

CITY OF SAN JOSE
 CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Date Issued: 3/7/2025

TO: Oracle Taco Truck Inc
 LOCATION: [REDACTED] VEH. LICENSE: [REDACTED]

This violation is in violation of the San José Municipal Code (S.J.M.C.) as noted below. You are hereby notified to take appropriate remedial action to avoid additional legal actions from being taken against you.

San José Municipal Code Violations

15.14.515 Discharge of water into storm drain
 15.14.530 Discharge of industrial discharge
 Other Code

*SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FINE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTION: Discharge of wastewater from food truck into storm drain located at 2227 Alum Rock on 3/7/2025

REMEDIAL ACTIONS REQUIRED:	DUE DATE:
- Cease Discharge	3/10/25
- Clean up discharge	3/11/2025
- Clean out / Pump out drain inlet	3/11/2025
- Effect Method to protect storm drain	3/11/2025

* Please contact inspector

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ALL REMEDIAL ACTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE NEXT RAIN EVENT BUT NOT LONGER THAN THE RESPONSE DUE DATE.

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Educational material left on food truck

Puestos de comida móviles



Directrices sobre medio ambiente



Lo que se vierte en la calle ...



... puede llegar a nuestros arroyos y a la Bahía.

Puestos de comida móviles

- Los puestos de comida móviles, como los carros de comida, los puestos de perritos calientes, los puestos de ferias callejeras y las casetas, son negocios móviles que preparan, cocinan y sirven comida al público. Están:
 - obligados a poseer un **permiso sanitario** válido.
 - contemplados como **fuentes potenciales de contaminación del sistema de alcantarillas, a menos que sigan las mejores prácticas de manejo para la prevención de la contaminación.**
- Para más información sobre los puestos de comida móviles en San José o para informar sobre derrames en alcantarillas, llame al (408) 945-3000 o visite sjenvironment.org

¿Vertería agua sucia en un arroyo?

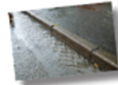
- Cuando llueve, las aguas pluviales fluyen desde las calles, los caminos y los aparcamientos hacia las alcantarillas que conectan directamente con nuestros arroyos sin recibir ninguna fuente de tratamiento en el camino.
- Es ilegal permitir que cualquier sustancia que no sea agua de lluvia baje a la alcantarilla.
- Asegúrese de que todos los derrames se limpien a tiempo. Los derrames que contengan materiales no peligrosos deben recogerse, contenerse en una bolsa para desechos y luego tirarse a la basura. Si un derrame contiene materiales peligrosos, se debe limpiar y eliminar adecuadamente. Si tiene preguntas sobre la manera correcta de eliminar los materiales peligrosos, visite www.hhw.org o llame al (800) 207-8222.



Here's what you can do to keep creeks clean

Only rain down the drain.

Do not dump grease, food waste, wash water, ice or anything else in the street, gutter or storm drain.



Spills must be cleaned up and disposed of immediately and properly.

Keep a spill kit handy for emergencies. It should include an absorbent like kitty litter, a broom and a garbage bag for the disposal of contents. Coordinate disposal of toxic materials with Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Follow the "Mobile Businesses Best Management Practices" for surface cleaning. Visit mywaterhedwatch.org.

You can be fined for:

Illegally discharging food waste, wash water or ice in a gutter or storm drain. These violations can result in a fine of \$500 or more plus cleanup costs.



Using foam food containers (expanded polystyrene/EPS) for dine-in and take-out. Violations can result in a fine of \$500 or more for repeat violations.

Visit sjenvironment.org/eps for alternative products and a price listing.



If you have questions about preventing storm drain pollution, call (408) 945-3000.

Properly bag and dispose of all waste.

Garbage is a pollutant.

No liquid wastes (water or oil) belong in the garbage. Make the wet waste "dry" by mixing with kitty litter or other material and be sure to contain it all in a garbage bag before disposal.

Check around your operation and clean up any garbage before leaving the area.

Some items, such as cleaning supplies, are toxic. These should not be mixed in with garbage but disposed of as hazardous waste. Visit hhw.org for more information.

Hold all waste water on board.

All wash water used for cleaning, melted ice water and cooling equipment discharge must be disposed of properly at your facility's sanitary sewer connection (e.g., sink, clean-out, mop sink).



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San Jose Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as large print, audio tape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 945-3000 (voice) or (800) 735-2029 (TTY).

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Resolution



Food truck cleaned drain inlet

- Advised Private Property Owner of requirement to clean drain
- Asked for permission from Property Owner to provide contact information to food truck owner
- Required that food truck owner contact property owner prior to cleaning.

Resolution

Food truck cleaned drain inlet

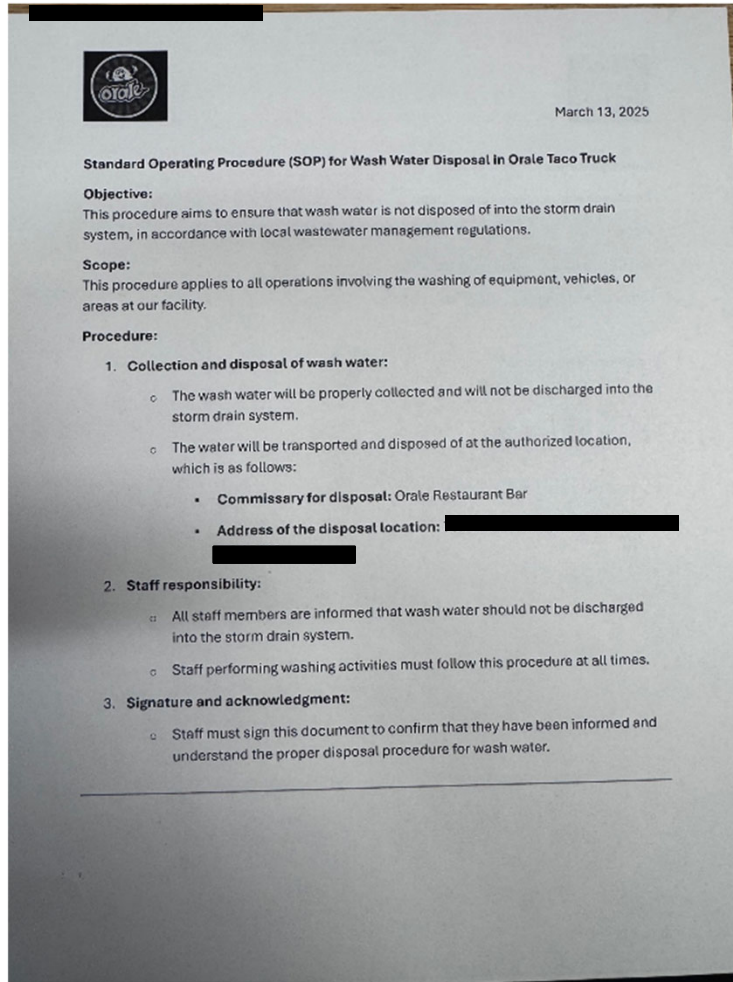


Email from food truck owner after storm drain cleaning
No evidence of additional discharge

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Resolution

SOP from food truck received



Three Administrative Citations issued Referrals for the days we have evidence of discharge.

\$500

\$625

\$750

\$1,875 Total

S OP received from food truck signed by all employees

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Key Takeaways



- Ask questions of tenants to get contact information
- Keep good documentation
- Have Responsible parties contact private property owners prior to conducting work

Questions

Contact:

- Email: 
 - eric.uldrick@sanjoseca.gov
- Phone: 
 - 408-793-5330

