



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
FACT SHEET**

**MAYOR APPLAUDS CITY WORKERS
FOR TEN-FOLD DROP IN SEWER SPILLS**

Spill rate down from one per day in 2000 to one per ten days in 2009

Mayor Jerry Sanders congratulated the city's Wastewater Department for its remarkable success in reducing sewer spills over the past decade – a decrease that has saved the city an estimated \$6 million.

In 2009, there were 38 sewer spills in San Diego – roughly one every ten days. That's a ten-fold decrease from 2000, when there were 365 sewer spills – an average of exactly one a day. In the past three years, the number of spills has dropped by more than half.

Given that the average sewer spill costs the city \$2,695 in response and clean-up costs, the city has saved roughly \$6 million over the past decade by tackling the sewer-spill epidemic.

“I couldn't be more proud of the folks in the Wastewater Collection Department,” Mayor Sanders said. “Reducing sewer spills means protecting our rivers, creeks and beaches. It means all San Diegans are living in a cleaner, healthier city.”

City Wastewater officials credit their success to a variety of factors, including using a more aggressive and tactical game-plan to clean the city's 3,000 miles of sewer pipes. They are also using more sophisticated pipe-cleaning tools and checking up on restaurants to make sure these businesses don't discharge fats, oils and greases into the sewer system.

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