### NEW Release
Office of Richmond Mayor Tom Butt

For Immediate Release
NOVEMBER 17, 2015

**What:** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for City of Richmond’s Completed Wet Weather Storage Facility

**Who:** Richmond Mayor Tom Butt; City Councilmembers; Ryan Smith, Richmond Wastewater Manager; Fadi Alabbas, Veolia West Operating Services, Inc; project design and construction team

**When:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015
11:00 a.m. (guided tours of facility available after ribbon cutting)

**Where:** Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant
601 Canal Boulevard, Richmond, CA

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**RICHMOND, Calif.,** – In time for the strongest El Niño, weather forecasters predict, in 18 years, the City of Richmond is unveiling the completion of the newest upgrade to its sanitary sewer municipal infrastructure. The five-million gallon tank and pump station at the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is operated by Veolia North America, will have the capability to hold overflows that overwhelm the system during periods of heavy rain, redirecting that sewage into the new holding container instead of the Richmond Inner Harbor.

“This will be good for the environment and allows us to treat the water at a later time when the system is able to adequately do so,” said Mayor Tom Butt who will be at the ribbon cutting ceremony. “Many of the sewer laterals that connect private homes to the City’s main sewer lines are aging, some about 100 years old, and they allow water from storms to infiltrate and overwhelm the system.”

The City sought the most cost-effective, reliable solution to prevent these overflows and formally proceeded with the design of the Wet Weather Storage Basin Project in 2013, selecting a progressive design-build approach to solving the decades-old problem.

“After the rain ends, the water stored in the tank will drain back to the beginning of the treatment process where it will be fully treated,” said Ryan Smith, Richmond’s newly hired Wastewater Manager. “We’re launching this upgrade at the most ideal time, before the big weather events hit us.”

The $16.6 million project began in June 2014 and finished earlier this month.

Shortly following the ribbon cutting ceremony, guided tours of the new water container will be available to reporters and members of the media.

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