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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Richmond Sanitary District
Contact: LuAnne Holeva, Conservation Education Coordinator
For use: Immediately through June 30, 2013

PSA: Keep your clippings out of streets and out of the water

Ah, the smell of fresh cut grass – it is that time of year again! Many of us mow our lawns and we always want things to look neat and clean. The best thing you can do for the lawn and the soil is to leave the grass clippings on the lawn to help feed the soil and thus the lawn itself. When you cut your grass don't leave the clippings out in the street to be "washed down the drain" as it does **NOT** go to a treatment plant. These clippings will get washed down to the storm drain where they can cause problems. They can block pipes and inlets which could lead to street flooding. These clippings could also enter local waterways where they decompose, release excess nitrogen and phosphorus, which leads to an increased growth in algae and death of fish and other aquatic organisms. This tends to make the water become stagnant and smelly. Please keep the clippings out of the water by having the mower blow the clippings up into the lawn. Use a broom, rake or leaf blower if necessary to clean the street after mowing.

Remember: **ONLY RAIN IN THE STORM DRAIN** – anything else is a pollutant.

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