

July 2003



Mobile Cleaners

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP).

The CCCWP consists of the Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, El Cerrito, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County and Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The Goal of the CCCWP is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks, the San Francisco Bay and Delta). The CCCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks, the San Francisco Bay or Delta without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, the San Francisco Bay and Delta. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, washwater discharged to the storm drains is illegal. A few exceptions as described in the following table, are allowed to discharge when there are no pollutants.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*

Mobile cleaning activities generate significant quantities of washwater as a result of their washing operations at various sites. Washwater can contain dirt, debris, soap, oil, grease, acid solution, solvents, paint chips, metals, and/or food waste. Washwater discharged to the storm drain system contributes to urban runoff pollution. Even "biodegradable" cleaning agents may cause immediate damage to aquatic ecosystems.

All contractors and individuals who perform cleaning operations can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices are identified on the following pages.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention, contact your local program representatives at **1-888-BAY-WISE**.



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