



Pollutants are picked up as water enters the stormwater system through the thousands of catch basins in our communities. Unfortunately, much of this polluted runoff is not biodegradable, which reduces the water quality and safety of our creeks, lakes, reservoirs and bays, and can be harmful to humans, fish, and wildlife.

- Trash: Cigarette butts, plastic, fast-food wrappers, and bottles
- Toxins: Motor oil, PCBs, antifreeze, fertilizer, and pesticides
- Microbes: Dangerous bacteria, viruses and pet waste
- Heavy metals: Lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.

Water runoff pollution is the untreated, contaminated water that drains from streets and other surfaces. This polluted runoff drains into our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes and eventually into the Delta and Bay. Pollutants in this runoff include:

What Is Polluted Water Runoff?

For more information on the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, its services, the proposed Clean Water fee, or to obtain a copy of the Fee Report please contact: Call: 925-313-2360, or visit: www.ccleanwater.org



**CONTRA COSTA
CLEAN WATER
PROGRAM**

255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 333



Proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative and Public Hearing Notice

Information About the Clean Water Initiative

The proposed annual Clean Water fee for your property is printed on this notice, near your name and address. The total amount that would be raised county-wide by the proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative for fiscal year 2012-13 is approximately \$8,758,148. The proposed Clean Water fee is based on the cost of clean water and pollution control services and facilities needed to improve water quality and comply with federal and state mandates. The proposed Clean Water fee is calculated based on the average impervious surface (surfaces not permeable by water, such as driveways, pavement and buildings) for properties of different types and sizes. For example, properties with large impervious areas send more polluted water into the storm drain system than property types without impervious surfaces, such as open space.

The proposed annual Clean Water fee may only be increased by the consumer price index, or two percent, whichever is less. This will help ensure that Clean Water fee revenues keep pace with the cost of operating and maintaining our clean water and pollution control services and facilities in future years. For more information, contact the Clean Water Program and/or review the Clean Water Fee Report available from the Program. Moreover, if approved, the Clean Water fee will be levied annually for a period not to exceed 10 years.



Device used to Capture Trash in Water Runoff

The 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative Will:

- Protect local sources of clean drinking water from contamination and pollution
- Remove harmful and dangerous pollutants, toxic chemicals, and potentially infectious bacteria and viruses from our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and the Bay
- Capture, clean and use rainwater to irrigate local parks and landscaping. This "rainwater harvesting" will also decrease the impacts of polluted stormwater and urban runoff on our local creeks, lakes, the Delta and Bay
- Prevent illegal or toxic discharges from industrial and commercial properties
- Provide other clean water and pollution control services and facilities required by Federal and State clean water regulations

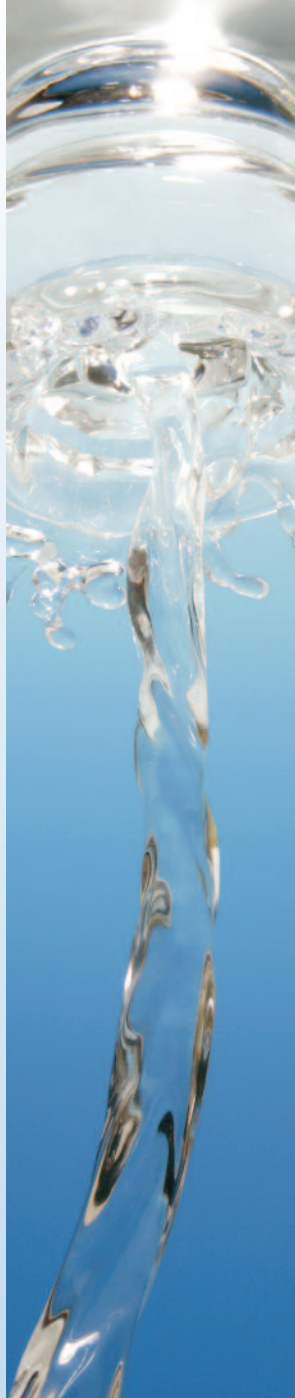


Trash in Creek

- Keep trash and pollution off our shorelines and out of our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay

Protecting Clean Water

Each year, tons of harmful and dangerous pollutants, bacteria and trash are carried through our neighborhoods and enter local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, Delta and the Bay. As water drains from streets, parking lots, and lawns, polluted water flows through a system of pipes, open channels and creeks into the Delta and Bay. The Contra Costa Clean Water Program is composed of Contra Costa County, all of its nineteen cities and towns, and the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. These twenty-one agencies are working cooperatively to prevent water pollution, but much more needs to be done to protect and enhance our local water quality. Also, new State and Federal clean water standards may require local communities to pay large fines if our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay are not cleaned up. These are the reasons why the Clean Water Program is proposing the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative to improve local water quality and protect our communities from toxic and dangerous pollutants.



Local Clean Water Projects in Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Richmond, Rodeo, San Pablo and other West County Communities



Hilltop Lake

The **2012 Community Clean Water Initiative** MANDATES that funds raised in each community can ONLY be spent in that same community for local clean water and pollution control services and projects.



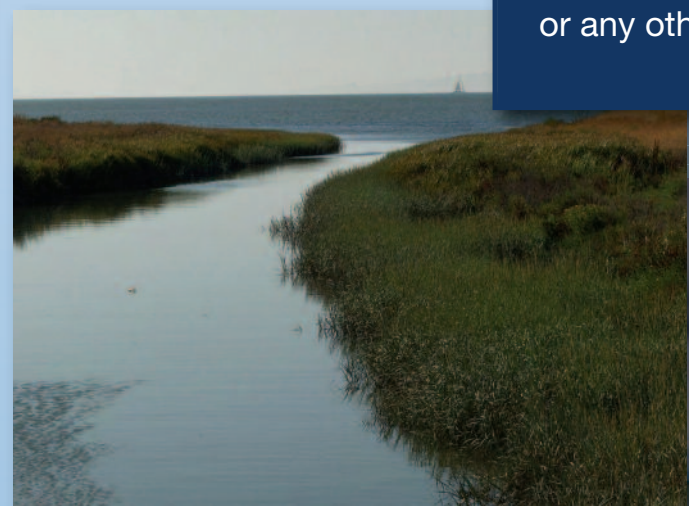
Baxter Creek



San Pablo Creek

If this measure is approved, the following local creeks and water bodies would benefit from clean water services and projects:

- Baxter Creek
- Cerrito Creek
- Garrity Creek
- Hilltop Lake
- Jewel Lake
- Maloney Reservoir
- North Reservoir
- Pinole Creek
- Point Pinole
- Refugio Creek
- Rheem Creek
- Rodeo Creek
- San Francisco Bay
- San Francisco Bay Shorelines and Wetlands
- San Pablo Bay
- San Pablo Bay Shorelines and Wetlands
- San Pablo Reservoir
- Summit Reservoir
- Wildcat Creek



Pinole Creek

Photo by Ted Thamiter

Will Any of the Clean Water Fee Revenue Be Used for Other Purposes?

No. The revenue from the proposed Clean Water fee can only be used for local clean water and pollution control services and facilities. These revenues cannot be taken by the Federal or State government, or any other public agency.



Pinole Shoreline

Photo by Ted Thamiter

Strict Fiscal Safeguards

The proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative includes strict fiscal safeguards to ensure the proceeds are used only for local clean water and pollution control services:

- All funds shall **ONLY** be used for local clean water and pollution control services in your community
- 100% of all funding received will be used in the community where it was generated (i.e. 100% Return-to-Source)
- An Independent Citizens Oversight Committee will ensure all funds are spent properly
- Mandatory Annual Audits
- The Clean Water fee will expire after 10 years

Notice of Public Hearing

This notice is the first step in the voting and approval process for the proposed Clean Water fee.

A public hearing will be held and you are invited to attend:

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 107
651 Pine Street, Martinez, California.

At this hearing, the Board of Supervisors ("Board"), acting as the governing body of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will hear any public testimony and consider all protests against the proposed Clean Water fee. A majority protest exists if written protests are presented by a majority of owners of the identified parcels where the Clean Water fee is proposed to be imposed. If there is a majority protest against the imposition of the proposed Clean Water fee, the Board will not impose the proposed Clean Water fee.

Written protests regarding the proposed Clean Water fee may be sent by mail or other means of delivery to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Room 106, Martinez California 94553, or hand-delivered at or before the close of the public hearing. The protest must identify the owner of the property and the property address or assessor parcel number.

If a majority of property owners do not submit written protests by the close of the public hearing, the Clean Water Program may proceed with the second step of the proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative approval process, which is a property owner ballot proceeding. If this balloting occurs, property owners will have the opportunity to vote by mail on the proposed Clean Water fee. Please watch your mail for more information about the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative.