



City of Oceanside Clean Water Program

Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to the Oceanside Clean Water Program Newsletter!

As a coastal city, Oceanside is very concerned about the water quality of our local creeks, rivers, lakes, lagoons and beaches. The Oceanside Clean Water Program was created to help improve local water quality, educate residents and businesses about water quality issues, as well as provide tips on ways to reduce pollution of our waterways. Due to the expanding programs and service opportunities our Oceanside Clean Water Program offers, we have designed a bi-yearly newsletter to keep you informed of the latest activities and water quality information. As an Oceanside resident, you will continue to receive fliers in your water utility bill about upcoming community cleanup events, as well as this newsletter. If you wish to be a part of the Oceanside Clean Water Program mailing list, or know others interested, please contact us and we will add the name(s) promptly. We hope you find this newsletter valuable.

Urban Runoff Laws Affect Homeowners, Too

As a coastal community, the City of Oceanside relies on clean water for its residents, healthy beaches, public safety and a desirable environment for wildlife. When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots and gutters wash down the storm drains and into the nearest body of water.

Unfortunately storm drains do not filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sewer system, so any pollutant that flows into the storm drain ends up in our ocean.

Urban runoff pollutants come from many different sources:

leaking cars, chemicals, building materials, yard waste, soil erosion, and litter. In response to a federal and state mandate, the City of Oceanside has created the Clean Water Program to manage its urban runoff. Additionally, Oceanside has updated local ordinances, primarily City Code Chapter 40, to reflect these new guidelines.

For homeowners, these new urban runoff requirements mean the following activities are illegal:

- water-washing your sidewalk and driveway if the wash water enters the street or storm drain;
- dumping hazardous chemicals and materials into the storm drain;
- discharging swimming pool filter backwash into the street or storm drain;
- discharging swimming pool water into the street or storm drain if it contains detectable levels of chlorine;
- allowing pet waste and lawn clippings to enter a storm drain.

Residential car washing and landscaping irrigation water may still legally enter the storm drain. However, residents are encouraged to limit the amount of car wash water and irrigation runoff entering the street and storm drains. If excessive amounts of pollutants are found in our waterways, caused

by these residential activities, the City will have no choice but to regulate car washing and irrigation activities.

For more information about about water quality regulations for residents, call Linda Isakson at 760-435-5807 or log onto our website at www.oceansidecleanwaterprogram.org.



You Can Help Prevent Water Pollution

Do you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system or a treatment plant? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rain water away from developed areas to prevent inland flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries flow directly into the creeks, lagoons and ocean. Below are a list of tips on how you can prevent water pollution.

Dispose of Yard Waste More Frequently:

By collecting grass, leaves, shrubs trimmings and other organic materials and "green-wasting" them more frequently, less will wash into storm drains.

Sweep or Rake:

Sweep up debris and put it in a trash can. Do not use a hose to wash off sidewalks, parking areas and garages.

Clean Up After Your Pets:

Take a bag when you walk your pets and be sure to always clean up after them. Flush pet waste down the toilet or dispose of it in a sealed plastic bag and throw it in the trash.

Care For Your Cars:

Fix oil leaks immediately. When you change your oil, recycle it properly. For the recycling center nearest you, call 1-800-CLEANUP.

Reduce Use of Landscape Chemicals:

Decrease the use of lawn and garden care products such as pesticides, insecticides, weed killers, fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals. Avoid over-irrigating which washes chemicals down the gutter and into the storm drains.

Use Soap Sparingly:

When washing your car at home, use soap sparingly, divert washwater to landscaped areas and pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink. Never wash your car in the street. Better yet, have your car washed at a regulated car wash where the water is recycled and sent to the sanitary sewer instead of the street.

Buy Non-Toxic Products:

When possible, use non-toxic products for household cleaning. If you must use a toxic cleaning product, buy small quantities, use it sparingly and dispose of unused portions. For the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility nearest you, call 1-800-CLEANUP.

Clean Up Spills:

Use absorbant materials, like kitty litter and old rags, rather than water to clean up spills. As long as the total amount of garbage disposed weighs less than 50 pounds, kitty litter may be thrown out with curbside trash.

Clean Water Program
Website Available for You

The City of Oceanside Clean Water Program has a fully comprehensive website available for the public at www.oceansidecleanwaterprogram.org. Designed to meet a vast array of needs, the Clean Water Program website offers information for developers, commercial business owners, students, environmental advocates, children, teachers, residents, curious web surfers, other government agencies and community volunteers.

Buena Vista Creek/Beach Cleanup Planned

In recognition of Coastal Cleanup Day, the City of Oceanside, along with the Cities of Carlsbad and Vista, will be hosting a cleanup along the banks of Buena Vista Creek September 20, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Additionally, the City of Oceanside will be simultaneously hosting a beach cleanup on the south side of the Oceanside Pier. Currently in its third year, the Buena Vista Creek cleanup has proven to be quite popular with residents from across San Diego County. Each City will host a certain number of sites.



Oceanside sites include:

- College Blvd. and Plaza Dr. in the College Plaza Shopping Center behind Chicks Sporting Goods
- Thunder Dr. and Lake Blvd.

Come join the effort to remove unwanted materials from the creek and beach and improve our Oceanside water quality. Volunteers will receive refreshments, community service hours and a free t-shirt.

The Clean Water Program hosts a variety of annual cleanup events along every major watershed in Oceanside. Contact Linda Isakson for more information at 760-435-5807.

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