

Municipal Services Agency

Department of Water Resources

Keith DeVore, Director



Terry Schutten, County Executive

Paul J. Hahn, Administrator

County of Sacramento

RIVER-FRIENDLY CARWASH PROGRAM FACT SHEET FOR RECREATION & PARK DISTRICTS

General Information

Fundraiser carwashes are a valuable source of funding for many groups and organizations. However, the soapy washwater from a carwash (often carrying dirt, grease, and other pollutants) typically flows along a parking lot or other paved surface until it enters the storm drain system. From there, it goes untreated to our creeks and rivers, potentially harming fish and other aquatic life.

All by itself, one fundraiser carwash may not seem to be contributing much pollution to our local waterways; but collectively, fundraiser carwashes can contribute significant amounts of harmful pollutants to our creeks and rivers. Additionally, state and local regulations prohibit discharges of pollutants to the storm drain system.

River-Friendly Carwash Program

Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Program has developed the River-Friendly Carwash Program to provide guidance to help facilitate successful fundraiser carwashes while protecting local creeks and rivers. We've developed a River-Friendly Carwash website and will be directing fundraising groups to this website for information on how to partner with participating River-Friendly Recreation and Park Districts. By becoming a River-Friendly Park District partner, your park district will have the opportunity to provide suitable fundraising carwash locations at parks to prevent vehicle washwater from entering the storm drain system. Please visit our website at www.riverfriendlycarwash.com for further information.

Acceptable Park Locations For Fundraiser Carwashes

Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Program staff can work with you to identify appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and acceptable carwash locations at your parks to prevent vehicle washwater from entering the storm drain system. Below are a few ways to prevent the washwater from entering the storm drain system:

- Discharge the vehicle washwater to soil or landscaped area;
- Re-direct the vehicle washwater to the sanitary sewer;
- Wash vehicles on pervious pavement.

Call (916) 874-1353 for help in finding a location in your park suitable to hold a fundraiser carwashes. For additional guidance on acceptable approaches to containment and proper disposal of vehicle washwater during fundraiser carwashes, please refer to the *Guidelines for Manually Diverting Outdoor Wastewater to the Sanitary Sewer* booklet. This booklet can be downloaded from the Business Environmental Resource Center's (BERC) website at www.sacberc.org or you may contact BERC at (916) 649-0225 to receive a free copy.

"Managing Tomorrow's Water Today"

Main: 827 7th St., Rm. 301, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 874-6851
www.saccounty.net (search: stormwater) • (916) 875-RAIN • fax (916) 874-4706

District Participation

Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Program invites all Recreation and Park Districts to participate in this program. By being a partner in this program, your park district will be helping the environment and will receive additional benefits, including:

- Increased numbers of residents visiting a participating park to support fundraiser carwash events;
- Being recognized as a River-Friendly Park District by the community and fundraising groups;
- Being listed on Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Program's websites as a River-Friendly Park District;

If you wish to participate, it is important that you sign up at your earliest convenience in order to allow time for fundraising groups to plan ahead for next summer.

To find out how you can enroll your park district in this program, go to www.riverfriendlycarwash.com. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to partner with others in your community to keep our creeks and rivers clean and healthy.

Sacramento County's Stormwater Quality Program thanks you for your consideration.