



# THE *Outfall*

VOL 2, ISSUE 1      OCTOBER 2006

This issue's focus: **ILLICIT DISCHARGE**

*Presented by the:*

## Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program

Information and updates on stormwater quality training, regulations, and approaches for Sacramento County employees

### Door Hangers Make Your Job Easier!

Have you ever had a service call and couldn't reach the home or business owner? Have you come across a spill that needed to be cleaned up before the next rain storm and the occupant wasn't available? The Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program door hangers are a convenient way to leave information when pollutants are found in nearby storm drains, or when discharges are coming from properties. The door hanger, designed to hold a business card and outreach materials, also includes a checklist explaining why the door hanger was given and a list of required actions that must be done to correct the problem. Department staff and field crews are strongly encouraged to use these door hangers to benefit their daily routines. For more information, contact Shawn Hart at 874-7173.

### Cleaning Up Illicit Discharges

When an illicit discharge has been identified, it must be cleaned up to prevent additional pollutant discharge to the storm drain system. Usually the resident or business owner will perform the clean up themselves—this is only possible when the discharge hasn't passed through a drain inlet or entered a channel or creek. If the discharge has passed through a drain inlet and the responsible party needs access to a drain inlet, creek, or channel to perform the cleanup, they must obtain an encroachment permit prior to doing any work. Residents and businesses have the option to hire a contractor to perform cleanups beyond the drain inlet. Obtaining an encroachment permit can take weeks to months, which can delay cleanups. In most cases, the pollutants that



Illicit Discharges must be cleaned up immediately to keep pollutants from flowing into nearby storm drains and into creeks and rivers.

### New Stormwater Quality Hotline Now Available!

County employees have a new hotline to call for issues regarding pollutant discharges to the storm drain system. Calling 874-4SWQ will put you in immediate contact with Stormwater Quality staff. The hotline was implemented to reduce lag time between a reported discharge and commencement of an inspection, as well as providing immediate guidance pursuant to the Stormwater Ordinance. The County's Water and Drainage Service Request Line, 875-RAIN, can also be used to report a pollutant discharge.

have passed through storm drains or entered waterways are cleaned up by the Stormwater Utility Drainage Operations and Maintenance Section (DOMS). DOMS crews perform the clean up, and all costs incurred by the County are transferred to the entity responsible for the prohibited discharge.

### County Agencies Teaming Up for Cleaner Creeks and Streams

Stormwater Quality has formed an alliance with Code Enforcement to help prevent pollution from entering our creeks and streams. Stormwater Quality staff assist Code Enforcement staff in cases that include stormwater violations. Quite often in their daily routines, Code Enforcement and Stormwater Quality staff are contacted with a complaint regarding the same property or nuisance. Often, violations that cannot be readily addressed through the Stormwater Ordinance can be dealt with through Code Enforcement. This collaboration allows the County to manage complicated nuisances more efficiently.

## County's EMD's Industrial Inspection Program Combats Stormwater Pollution

In July 2004, the Environmental Management Department's (EMD) Industrial Inspection Program was implemented to identify and eliminate stormwater pollution sources generated by businesses. This pollution can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local creeks and is in violation of the County's Stormwater Ordinance. Program staff is responsible for inspecting nine business categories to ensure Stormwater Ordinance compliance, which include:

- General Industrial Permitted Facilities
- Retail Gasoline Outlets
- Production Nurseries
- Auto Body Shops
- Auto Mechanic Shops
- Auto Dealers
- Kennels
- Restaurants
- Equipment Rental Companies

Stormwater inspections are conducted by EMD inspectors, in conjunction with existing hazardous material or environmental health inspections. Since the program's inception, the inspectors have shown their expertise in enforcing environmental and health laws by implementing this program with very few glitches.

Visit [www.emd.saccounty.net](http://www.emd.saccounty.net) to learn more about this program.

## Upcoming Public Outreach Event

American River Salmon Festival—October 14 & 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy a two-day event filled with entertainment, educational activities, music, fly fishing, and culinary demonstrations as well as guided river walks.

For more information, visit [www.salmonfestival.net](http://www.salmonfestival.net)



## Landscaping Materials in the Transportation Right of Way

Did you know that sediment is the most common pollutant found in the Sacramento County storm drain system? Landscape materials, including top soil or wood chips, can fill pipes and ditches causing localized flooding and, if not properly contained, can affect wildlife habitat in our creeks.



Materials stored in the right-of-way must be removed in less than 24 hours.

Landscaping materials stored in the transportation right-of-way must comply with an assortment of county laws and regulations. The county's Department of Transportation requires that any material stored in the right-of-way must be removed in less than 24 hours. Stock piles must also be protected from contact with stormwater (e.g. using plastic covers) and must not impede water flow in gutters or road side ditches. If the stock pile is not properly contained, it can easily erode, allowing sediment into the storm drain system.

Landscaping materials stored in the transportation right-of-way must comply with an assortment of county laws and regulations. The county's Department of Transportation requires that any material stored in



### SACRAMENTO COUNTY STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES • STORMWATER UTILITY

The Outfall is published by the County of Sacramento, Department of Water Resources, Stormwater Quality Program ([www.SacCounty.net](http://www.SacCounty.net) (search: stormwater)). The Outfall's goal is to provide timely and relevant information to County employees regarding storm water related training, updates, and approaches.

**Comments, ideas, questions?** Please contact Jeanette Watson, (916) 874-4711, [watsonj@saccounty.net](mailto:watsonj@saccounty.net)

**Contributors:** Jeanette Watson, Maurice Chaney, Diane Margetts, and Janet Parris