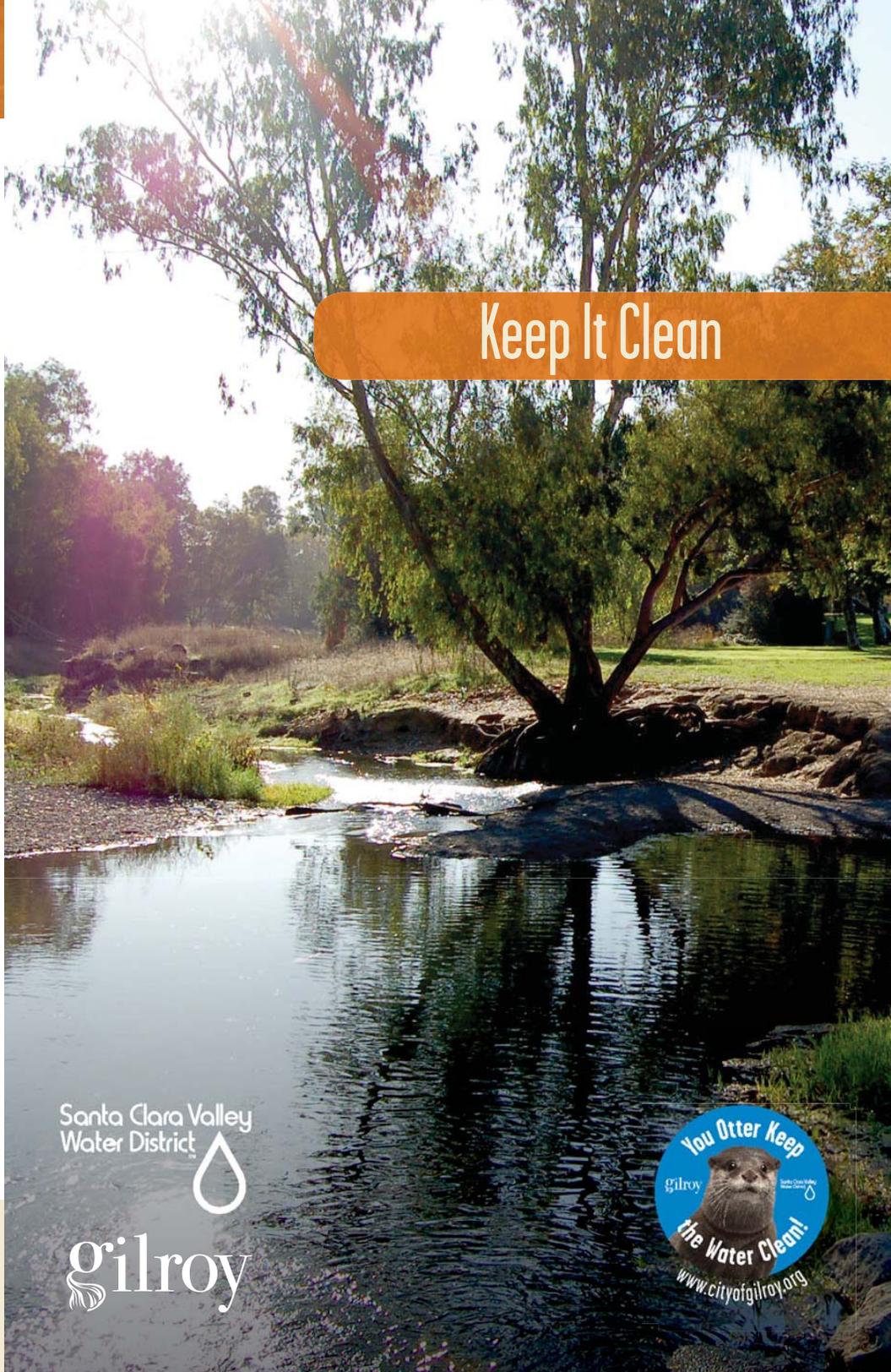


Best Management Practices for Good Housekeeping

Follow these BMPs to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into the storm drains. Just remember, "only rain in the storm drain."

Activities	Best Management Practices
Pavement Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris. Dispose of debris in the garbage. Don't hose down areas. When cleaning small outdoor pavement areas, use a mop or rags and a bucket containing water with a small amount of detergent. Put the used rags in the garbage and the dirty water into the sanitary sewer. For large lot cleaning use a commercial pavement/parking lot cleaning company.
Litter Control & Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an adequate number of trash recycling receptacles for your customers and employees. An adequate number of trash receptacles eliminates litter from overflowing garbage bins. Receptacles should be kept closed and must not leak. Pick up litter and other wastes daily from outside areas including storm drain inlet grates. Don't hose materials into drains.
Materials Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store materials in appropriately labeled containers. Make sure all storage containers have lids, and that the lids are adequately closed. Store stockpiled materials inside a building, under a roof, or covered with a tarp to prevent contact with rain.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train employees regularly on good housekeeping practices. Assign a person to be responsible for effective implementation of BMPs.
Equipment/ Vehicle Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain equipment and vehicles regularly. Check for and fix leaks. Use drip pans to collect leaks or spills during maintenance activities. Wash equipment/vehicles in a designated wash pad where the wash water is collected to be discharged to the sanitary sewer via an interceptor. Contact Chemical Control for permit requirements and information.
Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A permit is required to store many hazardous materials. Contact your Fire Marshal for permit requirements. Do not dispose of hazardous materials in trash, soil, down a sink or sanitary drain or into a storm drain. Use only licensed haulers for disposal. Call 911 for spills going into the storm drain/soil or causing injury or exposure.
Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not blow, rake, or sweep yard waste into the street or gutter. Compost yard waste or place in yard waste collection bins. Don't spray or spill pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers where they will run into or be washed into the storm drain. Prevent overspray and runoff from landscaping sprinklers into the street. Adjust spray patterns and watering times, and monitor the system for breakage.

Keep It Clean



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Santa Clara Valley
 Water District



Keep It Clean

How the Runoff of Pollutants Endangers the Bay

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, drainage channels, and the Monterey Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these waters, where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, it is illegal to discharge any wastewater to the storm drains. Disposal of materials to the storm drain is also illegal. Bacteria from animal wastes, food waste around dumpsters, and overflowing or leaky septic or sewer lines endanger the Pajaro River.

Chemical Control 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.

Stormwater runoff from industrial and commercial businesses is one of the major contributors to urban runoff pollution.

However, runoff and sewage discharge from residential areas is also cause for concern – lawn care chemicals, cleaning solutions, even medications and pet waste can compromise the environment.

Stormwater runoff goes into the Monterey Bay, which is home to wildlife, including the sea otter. The Pajaro River is also a spawning area for Steelhead Trout.

Businesses can reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. The table on the back of this brochure identifies some of these good housekeeping practices. For more information contact the City of Gilroy Chemical Control Pretreatment Program at (408) 846-0439 or (408) 846-0451.

The Chemical Control /Pretreatment Program

The City of Gilroy Chemical Control program permits, inspects, and enforces laws that control discharges to the South County Regional Wastewater Authority Treatment Plant (sanitary sewer system). This is also called a Pretreatment Program. In Gilroy, Chemical Control Inspectors also inspect for hazardous materials and hazardous wastes as part of the CUPA Program under the Gilroy Fire Marshal. The goal of the Pretreatment Program is to control discharges of pollutants to the municipal sanitary sewer system. It also plays a role in a Pollution Prevention Program to keep pollutants out of Urban Storm Runoff.

In response to Federal and State Laws, the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill are required to enact watershed regulations and programs to protect stormwater from pollution through Urban Runoff Control (stormwater runoff). The stormwater from this area drains into the Pajaro River, which is listed as an impaired water body. The intent of this brochure is to inform and educate the general public about ways water becomes polluted and what can be done to "Keep it Clean."

Stormwater Terms

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.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rainwater to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks and into the Monterey Bay 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 are discharges of non-stormwater to municipal storm drain systems that contribute to water pollution.

