

Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Preparation



DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE - One of the best ways to prepare for the winter rains is to clean and maintain storm drains and culverts by removing debris from your property to allow for the free flow of potential flood water. According to the City's Municipal Code, and as long as the area does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other permitting agency, homeowners are responsible for ensuring that drainage is cleaned and maintained in a manner that does not restrict the "natural or engineered flow of water". All residents and homeowners should be checking and clearing any culverts or drain pipes under driveways or elsewhere on the homeowner's property, and removing debris from ditches and waterways to ensure unimpeded flow.

In addition, to prepare for the upcoming rainy season all residents and homeowners should:

- ✓ **Clear** and check proper operation of roof gutters and downspouts and use a downspout extension to direct water away from the house foundation; install gutter guards or screens if debris routinely plugs gutters and downspouts;
- ✓ **Grade** the yard and landscaping to slope away from house to provide drainage;
- ✓ **Trim** trees that are hanging onto or scraping against roofs, and inspect and trim low hanging branches that overhang roads to allow for clear passage of vehicles.
- ✓ **Ensure** that leaves and grass are not blown into streets, ditches, ponds or other waterways, as the debris will plug inlets and pipes, increasing the risk for localized flooding.
- ✓ **Beware!** After a long period of drought followed by significant rainfall, many local trees, especially our numerous lovely oaks, will be extremely vulnerable to breakage and falling. Keep a watchful eye out, especially for power lines that may be knocked down by fallen trees.
- ✓ **Be ready** for possible storm related power outages by checking flashlight batteries and making sure to have plenty of non-perishable food and water on hand.
- ✓ **Keep in mind** that Atascadero's storm sewers are designed to handle the worst storm that occurs every 25 years, historically; however very heavy rainfall in a short amount of time may temporarily flood streets until the storm sewer system washes clear. Debris allowed to accumulate on inlet grates will prolong the temporary flooding.
- ✓ If needed, **purchase sandbags** which are available at local hardware stores, including Miner's and Home Depot. Sand to fill the sandbags is made available by the City at Fire Station 1 on Lewis Avenue, and at the City Yard located on Gabarda Avenue. **Please remember to bring your own shovel!**
- ✓ And finally, **keep this number handy.** When the rains come, if unusual flooding of streets or other storm facilities occurs, call local dispatch at **461-5051** right away.

LOCAL SANDBAG AVAILABILITY INFO

HOME DEPOT – 464-0960

Empty single bags are available for purchase; they are located at the Lumber Department.

MINER'S HARDWARE – 466-0270

Empty single bags are available for purchase: Also available: Full sandbags for additional cost.

LOWE'S – 602-9051

Empty single bags are available for purchase; they are located at the Lumber Department. Also available: Full sandbags for additional cost.

SAND LOCATION INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC (to fill empty sandbags):

The City will have stockpiles of sand available to residents at Fire Station No. 1 located at 6005 Lewis Avenue, in the back of the fire station off of Traffic Way– any time of day. Sand is also available just outside the City Yard at the end of Gabarda Avenue, located off of Curbaril Avenue near the railroad tracks.