

Clean Water for Atascadero

The City of Atascadero is incorporating homeowner outreach as part of its Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The City's SWMP defines strategies and guidelines for protecting water quality and reducing pollutant discharge. Atascadero's SWMP can be found at www.SWMP.com.

Importance of Stormwater Management

- ◆ Stormwater flows directly from the storm drain into creeks without any treatment
- ◆ Urban runoff is a leading cause of pollution in California
- ◆ Pollutants present in stormwater can have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems
- ◆ Increasing amounts of impervious surfaces due to development result in greater amounts of pollutants

When water quality impacts are considered during the planning stages of a project, new development projects can efficiently incorporate measures to protect water quality.

Call to report:

Illegal dumping in stormdrains or creeks*

Charles Dickey (Public Works Inspector): 470-3416

*Nothing other than water is allowed to be dumped into the storm drain.

For more information:



A Stormwater Friendly Landscape



City of Atascadero
Stormwater Management

Storm drains carry water to local creeks.

Never let anything get into the gutter, street or storm drain that you wouldn't want to find in our creeks, rivers and oceans. Rain and irrigation water washes pollutants, such as auto fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, and household cleaners, into storm drains, which flows into our creeks and out to the bay.



The City of Atascadero contains three major named creeks (Atascadero Creek, Graves Creek, and Boulder Creek), the Salinas River and Atascadero Lake. The City also has over 70 miles of "blue line" streams, the majority of which are located on private property. These water bodies ultimately drain to Monterey Bay.

Everyday activities carried out by residents of Atascadero have harmful effects upon the natural water systems in our area and beyond. As a resident, it is your responsibility to help prevent pollutants from entering local storm drains.

Prevent pollution with landscape care



Utilize green gardening methods

- ◆ Plant native, drought-tolerant plants to conserve water use
- ◆ Use compost and mulch to naturally feed soil



Re-invent your yard

- ◆ Reduce the amount of paved surfaces in your yard by replacing pavement with trees, shrubs and various ground covers.
- ◆ Redirect downspouts to flow directly into garden and landscaping
- ◆ Choose pest and disease resistant varieties of ground cover



Maintain water on-site

- ◆ Establish a rain garden (landscaped depression in yard) to collect stormwater and nourish plants
- ◆ Utilize rain barrels to capture runoff from roofs



Limit use of pesticides & fertilizers

- ◆ Test the soil in your yard to determine if fertilizer is necessary
- ◆ Avoid applying pesticide if the forecast calls for rain
- ◆ Avoid spreading fertilizer on paved areas
- ◆ Properly dispose of fertilizer and pesticide by dropping materials off at a household hazardous waste drop-off facility in San Luis Obispo County



Maintain car to minimize pollution

- ◆ Maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks of auto fluids
- ◆ Wash your car on a grass or gravel area
- ◆ Use minimal amounts of biodegradable, phosphate-free soap when washing your car
- ◆ Pour leftover soapy water down a household sink

