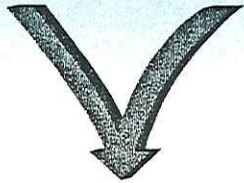


WHO CARES?

WE DO!



The Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff
Management Program (FSURMP)
(707) 429-8930

Fairfield Police Department
(707) 428-7300

Suisun City Police Department
(707) 421-7373

Solano County Environmental
Management
(707) 421-6765

San Francisco Bay Regional Water
Quality Control Board
(510) 622-2300

California Department of Fish and Game
(707) 944-5512

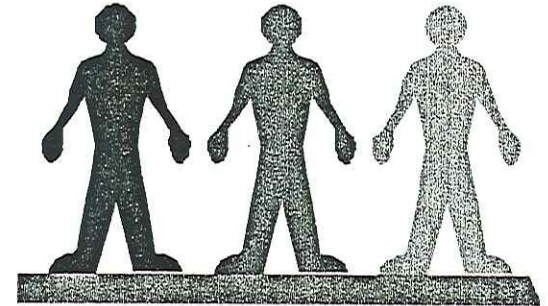


July 1999

Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District
1010 Chadbourne Road
Fairfield, CA 94534-9700

**Storm Drain
Pollution Solutions**

**YOU
Make
a
Difference**



**Best Management
Practices for the
Home and Office**

STORM DRAIN POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Pollution hurts our local streams and the Suisun Marsh. The real tragedy is it could all be prevented *without new regulations or new taxes* if we worked together to protect our local natural resources.

WHAT'S THERE TO PROTECT?

Suisun Marsh is the largest remaining wetland in the San Francisco Bay area and the largest brackish water (part salt water and part fresh water) marsh on the west coast. Measuring 20 miles long by 12 miles wide, it is a major stop over point and wintering ground for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway and an important habitat and breeding ground for a diversity of fish and animals. It provides numerous recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, and sight-seeing. The Marsh is an irreplaceable resource to our communities, our state, and our nation.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Storm drains (those things at the corner of your street that rain water flows into) **flow directly to the Marsh without any treatment**. That means what you spill, dump, or sweep into the street goes down the drain and into the Marsh where it damages bugs, plants, fish, birds, and animals that live there.

Many people believe that just a little pollution is okay because there's a lot of water out there. There are two problems with this thinking: 1) *If everyone adds just a little pollution, it adds up to a lot of pollution, and* 2) *even a little pollution causes damage.*

Many also believe that by using biodegradable products to wash their car or clean their car's engine they are protecting the environment.

Biodegradable means the product will breakdown in a sewage treatment plant.

Household drains flow to a sewage treatment plant. **Storm drains do not!** Biodegradable detergents, by themselves, damage aquatic plants and animals that live in the marsh. The oils and greases cleaned from the cars and engines kill these plants and animals.

Over-applied or improperly applied pesticides, weed killers, and fertilizers wash into the storm drain when it rains or when the yard is watered. These products, even in small quantities, are deadly to the marsh. Use them properly and sparingly or use environmentally safe substitutes and always read the directions carefully.

Yard wastes, pet wastes, and trash in the gutter wash into storm drains. These materials add unneeded nutrients and garbage to the water.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Implement the three "C's" of pollution prevention at your work and in your home:



Care
Change
Cooperate



Care about you neighborhood, your community, and your environment. Stay informed. Get involved. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors.

Change your practices and behaviors.

- Recycle it, don't dump it!
- Wash your car in a commercial car wash or on your lawn (the soap products will help fertilize your lawn and will soak into the ground before reaching the storm drain).
- Use environmentally safe substitutes for pesticides and weed killers.
- If you must use pesticides, weed killers, and fertilizers, use them sparingly and never apply if rain is forecast.
- Never pour anything down the storm drain.
- Never hose down spills to the storm drain. Use kitty litter or similar products to soak up spills.
- Keep yard clippings, pet wastes, and trash out of the gutter and away from storm drains.
- Limit the use of your car. Use public transit, car pool, bicycle, roller skate, or walk.

Cooperate with and assist your neighbors, City officials, and other public agencies in eliminating storm drain pollution.

- Report dumps, spills, or other improper practices (If you don't want to give your name, don't. An anonymous call is better than no call).
- Stencil your neighborhood's storm drains. Stencils and paint are available from your City or the Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program.
- Make storm drain pollution solutions a part of your every day life both at home and on the job.