

**SYSTEMS:  
STORM DRAIN VS.  
SANITARY SEWER**

*Storm drain and sanitary sewer systems have two distinct functions. It is very important to understand the difference.*

Catch basins are the entryway into the Storm Drain System and are typically located at the bottom of a hill or at street corners. This system collects and transports water and other liquids away from these areas and out to a local waterbody untreated. The Storm Drain System does not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers.



The Sanitary Sewer System collects wastewater from indoor plumbing such as sinks, toilets, washing machines, and floor drains where it is transported through underground pipes to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged back into a river.

**NO DUMPING !**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ....**

**STORMWATER POLLUTION:**

Contact your local Stormwater Management Office:

City of Lodi (209) 368-5735
County of San Joaquin (209) 468-2179 or 3073 <a href="http://www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/pubworks/NPDES.htm">http://www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/pubworks/NPDES.htm</a>
City of Lathrop (209) 858-2860 ext. 328
City of Manteca (209) 239-2839
City of Ripon (209) 599-2108
City of Stockton (209) 937-8791
City of Tracy (209) 831-4333

**SANITARY SEWER DISCHARGES—CONNECTIONS:**

City of Lodi Water/Wastewater Division (209) 333-6740
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**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL:**

County of San Joaquin (209) 468-3066
7850 S. RA Bridgeford Street, Stockton, CA

**TO REPORT ILLEGAL DISCHARGES:**

City of Lodi (209) 368-5735
County of San Joaquin (209) 468-3055
City of Lathrop (209) 858-2860 ext. 328
City of Manteca (209) 239-8460
City of Ripon (209) 599-2108
City of Stockton (209) 937-8791
City of Tracy (209) 831-4420



**MAKE YOUR NEXT  
CARWASH  
FUNDRAISER  
“ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SMART”**

*Help keep pollutants  
out of the storm  
drain system.*

A good housekeeping  
guide for Lodi’s non-  
profits, schools and  
civic organizations.



**LODI STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Tel: 209-333-6740**

# STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

## RAISE MONEY AND PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S WATERWAYS

**THE PROBLEM:** Holding a car wash is a popular way to raise funds for various organizations but all too often, while they help the organization, such car washes hurt the environment. That's because they are often held in public parking lots that drain into the stormwater system, which leads directly into nearby streams, creeks, and rivers.



Soap suds, oil, grease, and other contaminants are washing into the curb and end up polluting local waterways. Putting these materials into the stormdrain is the same as dumping them directly into the Mokelumne River, or any nearby stream or wetland.

Dirt, grime, oil, soap, and other car wash residuals are harmful to fish, wildlife, and plants that grow in and around waterways. Even biodegradable soap causes trouble because when it enters a waterway and begins to degrade, it

uses up oxygen needed by fish, plants, and other marine life. It's important to avoid using cleansers that contain phosphates, chlorine, chlorine bleach, nitrates and ammonia.

**THE SOLUTION:** By planning ahead, your car wash fundraiser can be both fun and profitable for your organization, as well as respectful of our local water resources. Some options on how to conduct an environmentally-friendly car wash are listed below. In all cases use a flow-control device such as a hand spray with an on/off hose trigger to conserve water.

### Option #1 Hold your car wash in a grassy field instead of a paved parking lot

Wash all vehicles on a permeable surface such as a grassy or gravel lot, using biodegradable, phosphate-free soap. Soil and plants help to filter out toxins before they seep into groundwater. Never allow wash-water to enter the storm drain system.



*Contact numbers are listed on the back of this brochure.*

### Option #2 Find a sponsor for your car-wash that uses a closed loop washing system.

Preferably you want one that recycles its water. These are generally industrial and commercial sites that are designated with an equipment/vehicle wash area. The wash pad must be directly connected to the sanitary sewer system and the property owner is responsible for all necessary discharge permits. Do not hold your car-wash at a facility that is not properly equipped. Popular host sites such as service stations and parking lots usually do not have the necessary connections to the sanitary sewer.

### Option #3 Block Storm and Discharge to Sanitary Sewer

A diversion kit can be used to prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater system. This kit includes storm line plugs and a sump pump. The wash water would be pumped into the sanitary sewer with the property owners permission. A pre-inspection is required to confirm electrical GFI hookup, storm line location and size, and sanitary sewer discharge location.