

Planning For STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

at Your Special Event

Contact the
Office of
Special Events
at (619) 685-1331
to coordinate
a preliminary
discussion
about your
special event.



The watershed model teaches
young event goers about
storm water pollution.

San Diego is a region with tremendous beauty --- rugged coastline, accessible waterways and a temperate climate --- that affords residents a year-round opportunity to play on our beautiful beaches and in our bays. It's a life style we cherish and others envy, and still thousands of tourists enjoy every year. It is one of the main reasons that every year hundreds of people choose San Diego to host special events.

As you begin to plan your event, it is important to recognize that people who attend and participate in events frequently leave behind tons of litter, trash and debris, all of which can find its way into the storm drain.

This brochure has been developed to provide you with information regarding storm water pollution municipal codes and prevention strategies.

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

San Diego Municipal Code §43.0301 makes it illegal to pollute storm drains. The purpose of the municipal code is to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of San Diegans by controlling, reducing and eliminating discharges into the Storm Water Conveyance System from spills, dumping or disposal of materials other than storm water. As a Clean Water Leader, to ensure that the necessary plans are made and steps are taken to protect some of San Diego's precious resources, its beaches and bays.

The City of San Diego is aggressively working to protect our beaches from being diminished by the effects of Storm Water Pollution. This pollution, also called Urban Runoff, is a problem that affects all of us. It closes beaches, makes our children and us ill and threatens the health of marine and wildlife.

Special Event pollutants such as food waste, cooking oils, pet waste, cigarette butts, mop water, dirt, and unfinished beverages, plus the automotive fluids, brake dust, leaves, and grass clippings, that are generated everyday, combine to create an unhealthy mess that contaminates and closes our beaches.

When it rains, or when water is used, pollutants are picked-up from the ground and carried into the nearest storm drain down the street. The storm drains are not connected to a treatment system, so everything that flows down the drain goes directly to the nearest water body, ultimately flowing untreated into the ocean.

It is important to understand the condition of our nation's coastal waters has degraded over time. With more than 1.2 million people in an urbanized area of approximately 237 square miles, and more than 39,000 storm drain structures and 900 plus miles of storm drain pipes and channels to clean and maintain, keeping San Diego's beaches, bays and watersheds clean from pollutants has become increasingly difficult. We need your help.

PLAN AHEAD

3 Cs

Remember to include Storm Water Pollution Prevention strategies as part of your initial special event planning process. As an event organizer, your first step should be to identify the storm drains that your event could potentially affect. Once you have identified potential sources of pollutant discharges, adopt some simple Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can help stop pollutants from being generated and entering into the storm drain system. You should also make sure all of the vendors at your event also participate in storm water pollution prevention strategies.

When planning, be proactive. Assess your event's activity from a storm water pollution point-of-view and ask yourself, "will this activity, directly or indirectly, generate pollution?" And, "how can I get the job done and prevent debris from entering the storm drain?"

CREATE A SPILL CLEAN-UP PROTOCOL

Have a plan that includes:

- Procedures for different types of spills
- Schedules for training of employees and volunteers about procedures
- Creation of clean-up kits placed in well marked areas where spills are likely to occur
- Designation of key employees/volunteers who will monitor clean-up
- Posting the clean-up plan in a visible location in the work area

Some of the event components you may want to think about include run-off from:

- Food and beverage booths
- Portable restrooms
- Trash disposal
- Cleaning the venue area

As a general rule, here are some simple rules that can help you to make your event storm drain friendly. We refer to them as the 3 Cs: Control, Contain and Capture.

Control: Once you have located the nearest storm drain(s) and those most likely to be impacted, take measures to ensure that nothing will enter or be discharged into them. This may require sweeping up the area and discarding debris and trash into a trashcan prior to beginning the event.

Contain: Isolate the storm drain and/or work area, to prevent potential flow or discharge from leaving the area.

Capture: Once your event has ended and been a success, clean up the area. If there is litter, trash or sediment, sweep it up and discard of it in a trashcan. If you do have liquid spills, use an absorbent to clean it up. Never use a hose to wash it away.

So, sweep up after your special event and place the debris into a trash container.



www.ThinkBluesd.org

Visit our web site at www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/specialevents/
This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



OFFICE OF
SPECIAL
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