



Otay Reservoir

Drinking Source Water Protection

Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) when landscaping and applying pesticides or herbicides to protect the quality of water entering reservoirs, our drinking water sources. It is critically important to manage runoff and prevent adverse impacts to drinking water quality.

City of San Diego drinking water sources include:

- Barrett Reservoir
- El Capitan Reservoir
- Hodges Reservoir
- Lower Otay Reservoir
- Miramar Reservoir
- Morena Reservoir
- Murray Reservoir
- San Vicente Reservoir
- Sutherland Reservoir

For more information about drinking source water protection, please visit:

www.sandiego.gov/water/operations/

Click on Environment

Contact Information

Water Emergency Hotline
(619) 515-3525

Environmental Services
(Household Hazardous Waste)
(858) 694-7000

Park and Recreation, Park Maintenance
(619) 235-1165

San Diego County, Agriculture, Weights & Measures
(858) 694-2739

San Diego County, Dept. of Environmental Health
(Business Hazardous Waste Disposal)
(619) 338-2231

Water Conservation Hotline
(619) 515-3500

United States Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Report Storm Drain Pollution

To report storm drain pollution:
within the City of San Diego,
call (619) 235-1000
or within the region,
call (888) THINK-BLUE
or (888) 844-6525

www.sandiego.gov/stormwater

www.thinkbluesd.org



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

How Your Pesticides and Herbicides Can Affect Water Quality



A guide to safe and proper use
of pesticides and herbicides to
keep our water clean.



How Pesticides and Herbicides Get Into The Water

The proper use of pesticides and herbicides is critical to maintaining the quality of our water resources. When pesticides and herbicides are applied, they have the potential to run off to sites that could impact our water. Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to fish and wildlife, and can pose a threat to public health.

By using Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed in this brochure and following product label directions, the potential for pesticide and herbicide runoff can be minimized. Each of us is a steward of our environment, so please take the proper precautions when handling pesticides and herbicides.



El Capitan Reservoir

Photo Credit: San Diego River Park Foundation

A watershed is an area that drains water into natural waterways feeding streams, reservoirs, estuaries and the ocean. Drainages from watersheds provide critical water movement all year long, especially during the rainy season. Protecting watersheds from contamination is important to the rich and diverse wildlife resources of San Diego, and also public health. Therefore, we must all do our part to protect water quality. Protecting San Diego's waterways is important to the region's biological resources and the health of everyone.

BMPs for Using Pesticides and Herbicides

Ways to limit contamination of our waterways:

- ◆ Read manufacturer labels and follow the directions.
- ◆ Apply pesticides and herbicides directly to the plant and not directly to the water.
- ◆ Do not use pesticides and herbicides on City-owned property unless properly authorized.
- ◆ Use extra caution when applying pesticides and herbicides in areas where they can be washed into waterways.
- ◆ Avoid applying pesticides and herbicides during windy and rainy conditions. Consider the location of the nearest stream or storm drain, and think about the direction and speed of the wind before applying.
- ◆ Discharge any rinse water from the spray equipment to the application area. Ensure that the rinse water does not flow into a storm drain or waterway.
- ◆ Sweep up all debris and deposit into the trash can. Do not blow, sweep, hose, or rake leaves into the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ◆ Store pesticides and herbicides in a covered area. Dispose of leaking containers and outdated or banned products as hazardous waste.
- ◆ And, remember that it is a violation of federal law to use a product in a manner that is inconsistent with its labeling.

Landscaping BMPs

Avoid pesticide, herbicide & irrigation runoff:

- ◆ Conserve water by using native plants. Visit the California Native Plant Society website: www.cnps.org
- ◆ Use mulch or compost on slopes for erosion control.
- ◆ Prevent over watering. Check out the free Landscape Watering Calculator: www.sandiego.gov/water
- ◆ Use organic or non-toxic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. For environmentally sound compost, please contact Miramar Landfill at (858) 573-1420.
- ◆ Use curbside yard waste recycling where available. Place clippings and pruning waste in approved containers for pick up.
- ◆ Use Integrated Pest Management strategies. Check out: www.projectcleanwater.org
- ◆ Use decollate snails instead of snail bait as an effective way to control pest snails.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Dept.

The City of San Diego *Fire Safety and Brush Management Guide* summarizes guidelines for brush management in canyon areas. The *Landscape Technical Manual* has information on fire resistant plants. For a copy, call City Publications at: (619) 446-5100.

Brush Management/Weed Abatement Inspections
Hotline: (619) 533-4444.
www.sandiego.gov/fireandems/inspections/brush.shtml