

Monterey County Fair and Event Center – Information about Storm Water and Water Quality

Storm water is defined by the US EPA as the runoff generated when precipitation from rain and snowmelt events flows over land or impervious surfaces without percolating into the ground. Storm water is often considered a nuisance because it mobilizes pollutants such as sediment, motor oil, and trash. In most cases, storm water flows directly to water bodies without being treated by a sewer system, contributing a major source of pollution to rivers, lakes, and the ocean. However, storm water may also act as a resource and recharge to groundwater when properly managed. The Water Boards are actively involved in initiatives to improve the management of storm water as a resource.

The Monterey County Fair and Event Center is enrolled in the Phase II Municipal Storm Water Program as required by the State Water Resources Control Board and is administered by the Regional Water Control Board in San Luis Obispo. The Fair and Event Center is within the City of Monterey which is also enrolled under the same permit program. The City's storm water program is part of their Engineering Office in their Plans and Public Works Department, and their website is <http://monterey.org/en-us/Departments/Plans-Public-Works/Engineering/Storm-Water-Program>. Their website can be found at <http://monterey.org/en-us/Departments/Plans-Public-Works/Engineering/Storm-Water-Program>. It contains information about the City program and includes information on types of pollutions (motor oil, other automotive fluids, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, and litter) which can make it into the creeks, rivers and the ocean every day. The website gives tips on preventing storm water pollution including

- recycle your used motor oil and antifreeze,
- suggestion to wash your car on an unpaved surface or at a car wash,
- maintain your car regularly so prevent leaks,
- keep your property landscaped as much as possible as planted area absorb more rainwater allowing it to percolate into the soil,
- use non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and organic gardening techniques
- sweep driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them into the gutter and storm drain
- clean up all grass clippings and other landscape materials and either compost it or place in the garbage can
- Water only your garden and lawn, not your driveways and sidewalks
- Pick up all pet waste regularly and dispose of in the trashcan, not down the storm drain
- Recycle your car's antifreeze
- Take unwanted chemicals like paint and pesticides to your local hazardous waste collection site
- Remember to clean up all spills when they happen!

Information about Low Impact Development (LID) for construction projects is also available on the City of Monterey website listed above. LID is defined as minimizing or eliminating pollutants in storm water through natural processes and maintaining pre-development hydrologic characteristics, such as flow patterns, surface retention, and recharge rates.

The City is part of the Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program (MRSWMP) whose website is http://www.montereysea.org/resources_developers.php. Their website has a wide variety of information that you can use in your home and garden to minimize your potential impact to local water bodies. They also have a video entitled "Storm Drain" at <http://montereysea.org/job-site/> that can be watched in either English or Spanish.