

**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 Tracy	(209) 831-6333
County of San Joaquin	(209) 468-2179 or 3073 http://www.co.san-joaquin.ca.us/pubworks/NPDES.htm
City of Lathrop	(209) 858-2860 ext. 328
City of Lodi	(209) 368-5735
City of Manteca	(209) 239-2839
City of Ripon	(209) 599-2108
City of Stockton	(209) 937-8791

SANITARY SEWER DISCHARGES—CONNECTIONS:

City of Tracy Utilities Division	(209) 831-6331
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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL:

Tracy Materials Recovery Facility	(209) 832-2355
County of San Joaquin	(209) 468-3066

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DISCHARGES:

City of Tracy	(209) 831-6332
County of San Joaquin	(209) 468-3055
City of Lathrop	(209) 858-2860 ext. 328
City of Lodi	(209) 368-5735
City of Manteca	(209) 239-8460
City of Ripon	(209) 599-2108
City of Stockton	(209) 937-8791



PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!

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

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

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



**TRACY STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Tel: 209—831—6333

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 storm drain is the same as dumping them directly into the San Joaquin 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 Use "waterless" cleaners

Commercially available waterless cleaners are a good alternative and can be located by doing an internet search on "waterless car wash".

Option #4 Use a commercial car wash

These facilities have special wash racks that empty into the sanitary sewer system. The runoff, along with water from our homes and businesses, is treated and purified before being released into Old River. As a fundraiser for your group, consider selling coupons that allow customers to have their cars washed at a commercial car wash. The car wash company may even give your group a special rate and/or help publicize your fundraising event.