

- Conserve water and minimize the amount of wastewater you must manage by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off.

Safety First!

Please have adult supervision and consider using reflective clothing and traffic cones



- Always empty buckets of wastewater into the sanitary sewer system via sinks, toilets, or sanitary sewer clean-out, or onto landscaped areas where the wastewater can be absorbed.

After the Carwash:

- Clean up the site — Have a volunteer walk the perimeter of the site to pick up trash and dispose of it properly.

STORM DRAINS AND SANITARY SEWERS DIFFER

The storm drain system includes underground pipes, as well as surface features such as drain inlets, streets, gutters, roadside ditches, and detention basins. Its purpose is to prevent localized flooding by collecting stormwater runoff (rain that doesn't soak into the ground) and conveying it to local creeks and rivers. However, pollutants that enter the storm drain system end up in these creeks and rivers too, since they are not removed prior to entering creeks and rivers.

In contrast, the sanitary sewer system carries residential and commercial wastewater from sources including indoor plumbing (such as sinks, toilets, and floor drains) or industrial processes; it conveys wastewater to a treatment plant where pollutants are removed before entering the river. Most commercial carwash facilities dispose of their wastewater to the sanitary sewer system.



Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership

Includes the County of Sacramento, and the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova

www.sacramentostormwater.org

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website at

www.riverfriendlycarwash.com

or call 916-808-4H2O

FOR SANITARY SEWER DISCHARGES

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), Waste Water Source Control Section	(916) 875-6470
City of Folsom	(916) 355-7200
City of Galt	(209) 366-7260

FOR BUSINESSES

BERC helps businesses understand and comply with environmental regulations. This business service is free and confidential.

Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) (916) 649-0225
www.sacberc.org

PHOTOS: Mira Loma High School students conduct a car wash at Hamilton Street Park



How to conduct a River-Friendly
Fundraiser Carwash



FUNDRAISER CARWASHES CAN HARM CREEKS AND RIVERS

Fundraiser carwashes are a valuable source of funding for local groups and organizations. However, the traditional way of conducting fundraiser carwashes in parking lots often results in draining wastewater containing dirt, grease, detergents, and other pollutants into the storm drain system. This dirty water flows to nearby creeks and rivers untreated, where it can be harmful to aquatic life and other wildlife.

All by itself, your carwash may not seem to be contributing much pollution to our local waterways. But collectively, fundraiser carwashes can contribute significant amounts of harmful pollutants to our creeks and rivers. Additionally, state and local regulations prohibit discharges of pollutants to the storm drain system.

CONDUCTING A RIVER-FRIENDLY FUNDRAISER CARWASH

A River-Friendly fundraiser carwash protects our creeks and rivers by not allowing wastewater to enter the storm drain system. When planning a carwash event, please consider the following options to make your carwash River-Friendly.

Team up with one of the following River-Friendly Partners when planning a fundraiser carwash event:

- Commercial Carwash — Some commercial carwash facilities have vouchers or tickets that your group can sell, or your group can rent a “bay for-a-day.”
- Business — There are businesses, (for example, some gas stations) that implement measures to properly manage wastewater from carwashes and will partner with fundraising groups to host River-Friendly carwashes.
- Park and School Districts — Some park and school district sites are set up to host fundraiser carwashes and properly dispose of the wastewater.

If teaming with a River-Friendly Partner is not feasible for your group, please follow these guidelines to comply with local stormwater ordinances and to protect our creeks and rivers:

Before the Carwash:

- Hold a meeting with all participants to explain proper procedures that must be followed during the carwash.
- Choose a location where proper wastewater management can be feasibly practiced.
- Consider how carwash wastewater will be managed during the fundraiser carwash event. There are two options:
 1. You may discharge the wastewater to landscaping, gravel, or soil provided that there is enough surface area to completely absorb

all the wastewater without creating runoff; it does not produce nuisance conditions (such as mosquito breeding grounds or excessive pooling); and you have the property owner’s permission.

2. Contain, collect, and properly dispose of all carwash wastewater. Refer to the “Guidelines for Manually Diverting Outdoor Wastewater to the Sanitary Sewer” booklet for detailed information on wastewater containment, collection, and disposal options. This booklet can be downloaded at www.riverfriendlycarwash.com or you may call (916) 649-0225 to receive a free copy.

- Remove all trash and debris from the carwash area.

During the Carwash:

- Use products labeled “non-toxic,” “phosphate free,” and “biodegradable.” These products can be purchased at most large retail outlets. Please note, however, that even biodegradable and non-toxic soaps are harmful to aquatic life and water quality, and must be kept out of the storm drain system.
- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to re-soap rags or sponges throughout the carwash rather than adding more soap directly to rags or sponges.
- Wring sponges and rags into buckets, not onto the ground.

To find commercial carwashes, businesses, and park and school districts that host “River-Friendly” fundraiser carwash events, go to www.riverfriendlycarwash.com