

CITY OF OCEANSIDE clean water program

Volume 9, Issue 1 - Spring 2011

Loma Alta Creek Cleanup

April 30, 2011

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day by participating in the 12th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup event on April 30, 2011. The City of Oceanside, together with event sponsors I Love a Clean San Diego and 1-800-GOT-JUNK?, will be hosting a cleanup along the banks of Loma Alta Creek and at two sites on the beach.

Cleanup sites

- Buccaneer Park at 1500 Pacific Street (cross street is Morse Street)
- Behind Smart & Final on Oceanside Boulevard and I-5 (1701 Oceanside Boulevard)
- Mesa Drive between El Camino Real and Rancho Del Oro Drive
- Behind commercial buildings at 1629 Ord Way (Off Oceanside Boulevard between College Boulevard and Temple Heights Drive)
- South side of the Oceanside Pier

Join other volunteers to remove trash and debris from the creek and beach to improve Oceanside water quality. Volunteers will receive cleanup supplies, refreshments, community service hours, and a free T-shirt or other giveaway item. For more information call 760-436-5536 or 760-435-5807.

**To register for this event click on
www.creektobay.org.**

For more information about Oceanside cleanup events and how you can prevent water pollution, visit www.OceansideCleanWaterProgram.org.

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Bacteria Source Tracking Project Along the San Luis Rey River

The Oceanside Clean Water Program was awarded a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board to conduct a multi-year investigation into the cause of high bacteria levels near the mouth of the San Luis Rey River that cause beach advisories and closures. The study is underway and final results are expected by Fall 2011.

In addition to using genetic testing to identify bacteria sources, visual observations within the San Luis Rey Watershed were conducted during dry weather conditions and before a rainstorm to identify sources. These observations, conducted by staff and volunteers, were designed to note potential bacteria sources from the environment (soils and decaying vegetation), animal wastes (including pet waste), and human sources (sewage and trash including improperly disposed diapers). Observations also took note of how the bacteria from these sources get to the river, such as by rain or urban runoff.

Results from Neighborhood Observations

The most common sources of bacteria found in residential and commercial areas were:

- Green waste including grass clippings and yard waste improperly disposed in curbs and gutters
- Pet waste
- Litter

While pet waste may seem like the most obvious source, yard waste and litter provide a place for bacteria to grow. The bacteria growing on this debris can then be transported to water bodies in various ways.

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Urban Runoff Hotline - Help protect our local waterways

Please report anything other than rain water entering the storm drain.

760-435-5800 "Only Rain in the Storm Drain!"

How many Oceanside water bodies can you name?

One of the first questions that Clean Water Program staff ask when giving children or adult presentations is "Name the nearest river, creek or water body." Many times people cannot answer this question. It is important for the community to be aware of these water bodies in order to learn how to protect them from polluted runoff. You can find out the water body names and more detailed information about them by going to www.OceansideCleanWaterProgram.org and clicking on Waterbodies. While on the website you can also learn what you can do to help prevent pollution from reaching these water bodies.



Schedule a Presentation

Do you know of a school classroom, youth group, or civic organization looking for a speaker? The Oceanside Clean Water Program offers presentations to groups of all ages. To get more information and to schedule a presentation contact Cynthia Mallett at 760-435-5807 or by email at cmallett@ci.oceanside.ca.us.



2011 River, Creek, & Beach Cleanup Events

Please join Clean Water Program staff and citizen volunteers to assist in removing trash and debris from our local rivers, creeks, and beaches.

Event Times: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

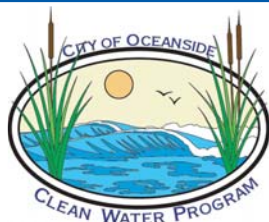
Event Details: 760-435-5536

www.OceansideCleanWaterProgram.org/events

- April 30, 2011: Loma Alta Creek Cleanup
- July 5, 2011: Morning After Mess - City Beaches (8 - 11 a.m.)
- September 17, 2011: Buena Vista Creek Cleanup and California Coastal Cleanup Day
- November 5, 2011: San Luis Rey River Cleanup

City of Oceanside

Clean Water Program
300 North Coast Highway
Oceanside, California 92054
760-435-5800
www.OceansideCleanWaterProgram.org



Bacteria Source Tracking Project Along the San Luis Rey River

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The most common means by which bacteria is transported to storm drains and then to local water bodies are:

- Over-irrigation or broken irrigation system (a line, connection, or sprinkler head)
- Rain
- Washing of paved surfaces

When water runs through yard waste, pet waste, or litter, it picks up bacteria and transports it to the water bodies through the storm drain system.

Why Should I Care about Bacteria in our Waterways?

Bacteria can make humans, our pets, and wildlife sick. The advisories and beach closures are to protect beach visitors from the potential of getting sick.

It should be noted that bacteria are present all around us. Like bacteria in our bodies, there are some bacteria that don't harm us and there are other kinds that can make us sick. Scientists are working on distinguishing between these types and what sources can be harmful to human health. In the meantime, all potential sources of bacteria are identified for the purposes of the study.

What Can I Do to Reduce Bacteria Pollution from reaching our Rivers, Creeks and the Ocean?

- 1) Eliminate the sources of bacteria:
 - Ensure that you or your landscaper are picking up yard waste and either putting it in green waste bins or composting it in your own yard.
 - Pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste in a trash can.
 - Don't litter. If you see trash, pick it up. It's the right thing to do for your community.
- 2) Use water wisely:
 - Ensure that you or your landscaper are watering landscaped areas no more than 10 minutes per day, three times per week.
 - If you have an irrigation system, periodically check for leaks or broken sprinkler heads.
 - Do not hose paved surfaces. Instead, sweep debris and then dispose of the waste in a trash can or green waste bin.
 - When rain is predicted, ensure yard waste, pet waste, and trash are properly disposed before the rain carries it away into our curbs, storm drains, rivers and creeks, and ultimately the ocean.

Further updates will be provided in future newsletters. Thank you for doing your part to keep bacteria out of our waterways!