

City of El Monte  
Public Works Department  
Engineering Division  
11333 Valley Boulevard  
El Monte, CA 91731  
626-580-2058



In conjunction with project pollution prevention, the City of El Monte would like to provide our residents, patrons, and business community with up-to-date information on preventing stormwater pollution.

Whether you are a property owner, business owner, or tenant, the ocean begins at your front door.

Please contact the Public Works Department at (626) 580-2250 to report an Illicit Connections/Discharge.

### **Why Should We Participate in Pollution Prevention Activities?**

Pollutants that are not disposed of properly enter the City's and Los Angeles County Flood Control District's storm drain system. These pollutants flow into the Rio Hondo Channel, San Gabriel River Channel or Legg Lake and discharge into creeks, rivers and ultimately the ocean. Pollutants contaminate our water resources. It is the State of California and the City of El Monte's goal to ensure our water resources are healthy and free from contaminants. Clean oceans can only be a result of healthy creeks, rivers, bays and beaches. Healthy creeks, rivers, bays and beaches can only be healthy through pollution prevention activities.

### **Business Community**

Starting a business is a lot of work. Do not forget to verify the laws and permits that are required for your specific business. As a reminder, food service facilities are required to obtain a clarifier/grease interceptor permit. These devices ensure that fats, oil, and grease (FOG) do not enter the sewer line and are collected and disposed of properly. For additional information, please visit Chapter 13.10 - FATS, OILS AND GREASE CONTROL of the El Monte Municipal Code:

[https://library.municode.com/ca/el\\_monte/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ca/el_monte/codes/code_of_ordinances)

### **Conditionally Exempt Non-Storm Water Discharges**

Only stormwater should enter our catch basins, storm drains, channels, washes, rivers, and oceans. However, there are some conditionally exempt non-stormwater discharges that are allowed to enter these water systems. The following is a list of conditionally exempt non-stormwater discharges:

- Non-emergency firefighting activities;
- Discharges from drinking water supplier distribution systems not regulated by a NPDES permit;
- Dewatering of lakes;
- Landscape irrigation;
- Dechlorinated/de-brominated swimming pool/spa discharges not regulated by a separate NPDES permit;
- Dewatering of decorative fountains;
- Non-commercial car washing by residents or by non-profit organizations; and
- Street/sidewalk wash water.

Please click here for more information on Required Conditions and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Conditionally Exempt Non-Storm Water Discharges. For additional information, please visit Chapter 13.16 - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND DISCHARGE CONTROL of the El Monte Municipal Code:

[https://library.municode.com/ca/el\\_monte/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ca/el_monte/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## **Residential Community**

In the State of California, especially Southern California, Water Conservation and Water Pollution Prevention are crucial to the health and safety of our families. Water quality affects us because we depend on water as a food source, to replenish key nutrients in our bodies, and keep energized. That is why it is important to implement the following practices regarding water conservation and water pollution prevention:

- Avoid runoff, don't over water your lawn;
- Water only on the days of the week that have been identified by your Water District;
- Install high efficiency sprinkler nozzles;
- Consider installing a weather based irrigation controller;
- Plant drought tolerant landscaping, which will reduce water needs significantly;
- Using synthetic turf/irrigation-less ground cover conversions can eliminate a yard's water needs entirely;
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off your driveway;
- Whenever using a hose on your property, make sure it is equipped with a shut-off nozzle;
- Use biodegradable, phosphate free detergents and non-toxic cleaning products when washing your car;
- If possible, wash cars on a permeable surface where wash water can percolate into the ground (e.g. gravel or grassy areas); and

- Contact the City prior to draining your pool to ensure that you are discharging the water properly and not introducing chemicals and sediment into the storm drain system or discharging to an area that could affect our water supply.

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention, please contact Cesar Roldan, Senior Management Analyst, at (626) 580-2087.