



MAKE-the-CONNECTION, Santa Maria!

Storm Water moves **from** curbs and gutters **to** storm drain pipes and channels **to** basins **to** the Santa Maria River...



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Become a part of the **Pollution Solution**. By living responsibly and being aware of the impact we have on our surroundings, we can improve, protect, and retain the use of our beautiful open spaces.

When rain water flows across roofs, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and lawns, it picks up and carries pollutants such as detergents, oil, pesticides and fertilizers, yard waste, and pet waste along the way. All of these pollutants will end up in our waterways unless we become good stewards of the waterways entrusted to us.

Rain? What rain?! It's true that we don't get much rain on the Central Coast. But when the rains do come, they can be sudden and heavy. Storm water runs off roofs, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and other flat areas. Gutters fill, and flooding can occur quickly.

Storm drain basins are designed to hold the storm water. As the basin fills, the storm water flows away from homes and property through pipes, trenches, and channels to other downstream basins and eventually the Santa Maria River.

Upstream begins at home. Most Santa Maria neighborhoods have storm water basins. They may be maintained by the City, the County of Santa Barbara, or they may be privately-owned.

In dry weather, a basin may be used as a neighborhood park. It may have an inlet or outlet covered by a grate to stop large debris from clogging the system. If you enjoy walking a pet in one of these basins, please protect this valuable resource by disposing of your pet's waste *every time*. Some basins and landscaped walkways have Mutt Mitt Stations with plastic bags installed for this purpose. Never leave pet waste—or any trash—behind you. Pick it up and throw it away.



Sierra Vista Park and Storm Water Basin

Here are a few *other* things you can do at home to prevent storm water pollution. Give them a try. Even small changes can make a difference!

Just follow these simple guidelines...

- ◆ **Do** clean up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash to prevent it from washing into the storm drain system and contaminating the water.
- ◆ **Do** sweep patios and sidewalks instead of hosing them. Hosing wastes water and carries contaminants into the storm drain system.
- ◆ **Do** take your vehicle to a commercial car wash that collects and recycles water.
- ◆ **Do** keep your car properly maintained so oil and other automotive fluids do not deposit on driveways, streets, and parking lots.
- ◆ **Do** properly dispose of used motor oil, solvents, and yard chemicals at the City of Santa Maria Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

For assistance, call the Utilities Department Regulatory Compliance staff at 805-925-0951, ext. 7270.

To report illegal dumping, call the Storm Water Hotline, 805-925-0951, ext. 7777.