

## **A Clean Environment is Important to All of Us!**

Over the last several months, the City of El Cajon has responded to several sewer spills where the source of the spill was deliberate dumping by owners of motor homes along city streets or in parking lots. Normally, motor homes and other recreational vehicles should be taken to designated vehicle dump stations where a leak-free connection can be made to public sewer and the contents be drained without polluting our environment. When motor home dumping occurs in our city away from appropriate connections to public sewer, the sewage finds its way into our storm drains.

Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and sewage treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas, thereby preventing flooding. Since storm water flow receives no treatment of any kind, the pollutants it carries flow directly into streams, rivers, lagoons and the ocean, often resulting in beach closures.



In recent years, sources of water pollution such as discharges from industrial facilities have been greatly reduced. As a result, the majority of water pollution now occurs from instances like motor home dumping, cars leaking oil, fertilizers from home gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste and residential car washing. The polluted runoff finds its way into the storm drains and ultimately enters the ocean.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! If you own a motor home, be sure to use an appropriate dumping facility such as the one at the Union 76 Station located at the northeasterly corner of West Main Street and Marshall Avenue, or the RV dump station at the Rancho Los Coches RV Park, 13468 Olde Highway 8 in Lakeside. If you know others that own motor homes, remind them to dump only to an appropriate dump station. Each of us must do our part to help keep our water clean and our beaches open, and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Our City is determined to keep pollution out of the storm drains and has adopted new ordinances for enforcement purposes. Failure to dump RV wastewater contents at an approved station may result in civil and criminal penalties.

For additional information, or to report a storm water violation, call the El Cajon Storm Water Protection Program at (619) 441-1653.