

## CONSERVATION CORNER



### **HERE COMES THE RAIN!**

With the rainy season upon us, it's important for us to understand the quirks of this time. Water pollution (that clearly hasn't been nearly as much of an issue during our drought) is now going to become a major concern.

*What is storm water pollution and how is it created?* Storm water pollution is a major environmental issue in California that causes unhealthy water quality in lakes, creeks, rivers, oceans, on beaches and when it floods during heavy rain. It's created when pesticides, trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, motor oil and other contaminants left on the ground wash directly into local waterways. The polluted water eventually mixes with more rainwater and pollutants and ends up being washed into creeks, rivers and the ocean.

*What are the problems with it?* Contaminated waterways are dangerous to wildlife, sea life and beach closures. Dirty water contributes to increased potential for viral infections, earaches, sinus problems, fever, flu and skin rashes in people.

*What can we do to prevent it?*

- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Consider using non toxic or less toxic products. Drought tolerant gardens containing native California plants will also help reduce or eliminate chemical use.
- Always put cigarette butts in an ashtray.
- Throw waste in a trash or recycling bin.
- Clean up pet waste always and promptly.
- Recycle used motor oil. NEVER dump it onto the ground or in the drain. Waste Management offers FREE curbside pickup for their customers and the City of La Verne has three certified collection centers: Auto Zone-1410 Foothill Blvd., Quickies Oil Change-914 Foothill Blvd. and Sunland Tire-2019 Bonita Ave.
- Bring hazardous waste (paint, motor vehicle chemicals, cleaning products, pesticides and herbicides, batteries, pool chemicals, electronics, sharps, light bulbs and mercury thermometers) to a hazardous waste collection event.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle-by practicing these steps, we can reduce the waste that will end up in our waterways and water supplies.

*What can we do to help fix the problem?*

- Contact the City of La Verne Public Works Department (909) 596-8741 or 1-888-CLEAN LA to report polluting activity.
- Educate your friends and family on the importance of the small steps we can take daily to reduce storm water pollution.

Additionally, having been in a drought, we have a new appreciation for our water resources and now need to maximize the water that is given to us from the sky. Some ideas on how to capitalize on the rainfall are listed below.

*Adjusting sprinklers before the rain*

As summer closes, we bid farewell to summer barbecues, beautiful days at the beach and relaxing vacations. This also means we get to say goodbye to extremely hot and hopefully, dry days. Along with these weather changes, we must remember to reprogram our sprinklers to water less. As the days get cooler, our plants and grass need less water. To check specific water needs for your area and landscape, please check [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for a watering schedule and calculator.

*Rain Barrels*

The City of La Verne distributed 500 rain barrels the first weekend of October, in which a storm hit our town dropping over an inch of rain locally. This storm was enough to fill many barrels of rain that can be used over the next few weeks to water plants and wash cars! If you didn't get a rain barrel from the city, but want one...please check out the rebates still offered through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com)

