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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Stormwater Issues: First Seasonal Rains**

Culver City, CA – The rainy season is here and Culver City is working quickly to ensure that catch basins and gutters are clear of debris and are prepared to carry thousands of gallons of water off of city streets. The Culver City Annual Ballona Creek Clean-up event in September helped residents see first-hand the effects of storm drain and waterway pollution in the City. Residents used the clean-up effort to help curb the effects of outdoor pollution that drains into the storm drains, causing storm water pollution.

You may ask yourself why it is so important to clear debris before the rainy season. Approximately 100 million gallons of contaminated water and debris drain through the LA County storm drain system each dry day. However on rainy days, the daily flow can increase to 10 billion gallons. It doesn't matter how far you are from the beach, eventually the contents from **all** the waterways, streams and gutters in Los Angeles County flow out to the ocean.

### **Culver City Residents Fight Back:**

The City has also been working diligently to comply with the new limitations soon going in effect regarding the amount of harmful bacteria that is allowed to make its way to the beaches. Keeping the storm drains free of harmful pollutants is a concern for residents

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*Culver City Employees take pride in effectively providing the highest levels of service to enrich the quality of life for the community by building on our tradition of more than seventy-five years of public service, by our present commitment, and by our dedication to meet the challenges of the future.*

in not only coastal cities but all cities as it can affect the food chain. Because of this and as a result of these new regulations, we are urging residents to help us prevent stormwater pollution.

The only way to bring stormwater pollution to a halt is to prevent it. Stormwater pollution is caused when first and continuous rains exacerbate harmful activities such as; throwing a cigarette out the window, overuse of pesticides and fertilizers, pouring beverages onto streets or in gutters, improper use, storage and disposal of household hazardous products and much more. Debris such as this, travels into our storm drain system via water from rain as well as from sprinklers and hoses. This mix of debris and toxins is often the source of stormwater pollution.

What can residents and businesses do to help? There are several steps that everyone can take to help decrease their impact of stormwater pollution on our beaches and ocean. Some helpful measures follow:

**Household Chemicals:**

Store your materials and chemicals in a closed or covered area to prevent the elements from getting to them. Purchase non-toxic pesticides and cleaners and use products sparingly and follow directions. Do not apply chemicals to lawns and gardens before watering or predicted rain storms. Products such as cleaners, solvents, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, etc., are harmful if disposed of in the trash. These items should be disposed of as household hazardous waste because although they may not seem harmful by themselves, when mixed with other chemicals in the trash, they can become volatile and prove to be extremely harmful to the environment and humans that come in contact with them.

Household hazardous waste, including empty containers, can be disposed of at monthly household hazardous waste “round-ups” conducted by the County of Los Angeles. Check the City’s website ([www.culvercity.org](http://www.culvercity.org)), local papers or [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com) for more information.

**Sweeping Instead of Hosing:**

A simple task that requires a simple change - use a rake or broom, rather than a hose, to clean up debris. If you have a gardening service, ask them to refrain from using leaf blowers to blow debris into the street. This prevents the debris from being washed into the storm drain system. Use your yard trimmings and leaves as compost! Important literature is available regarding safe landscaping practices; for proper landscaping maintenance literature, call (310) 253-5623.

**Vehicle Maintenance:**

Keeping your vehicles in good working order prevent leaks that could be washed into the storm drain system which in turn, drains to the ocean. Fluids dripped or spilled onto streets will wash into the storm drain system. When you're changing car fluids make sure to use a drip pan to catch spills. If a spill does occur, apply absorbent materials such as kitty litter, to soak up leaks, sweep up the residue and dispose of the waste properly. Dispose of the absorbent before it rains.

This information is provided by the City of Culver City Public Works Department as part of its Stormwater Education Program. For further information regarding the City's Stormwater Program, contact Mr. Lee Torres, (310) 253-5623. For information about the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program throughout Los Angeles County call 1-888-CLEAN-LA.

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