

November 1997



Alameda Countywide  
Clean Water Program  
A Consortium of Local Agencies

# Retail Gas Outlets

*In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Alameda County have joined to form the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (ACCWP).*

**The ACCWP** consists of the Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Alameda County, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Zone 7 of the District.

**The Goal of the ACCWP** is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks and the San Francisco Bay). The ACCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

**The Storm Drain System** was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks or San Francisco Bay without any treatment.

**The Sanitary Sewer System** collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

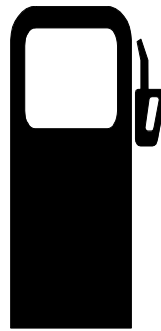
**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

**Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections** discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

**Urban Runoff** is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.

**K**eeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, and San Francisco Bay. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to the storm rains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Alameda Countywide Clean Water program (ACCWP) have instituted a business education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*



Retail gas outlets of any size, are potential sources of stormwater pollution. Areas in retail gas outlets for fuel dispensing, waste receptacles, and air/water supply areas can lead to the accumulation of automotive fluids, grease and other waste fluids on the ground.

All owners and employees of retail gas outlets can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices are identified on the reverse side of this page.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention contact your local program representatives at **1-888-BAY-WISE**.

# Best Management Practices for Retail Gas Outlets

## GENERAL PRACTICES

- *"SPOT CLEAN ALL AREAS IMMEDIATELY."* Use dry methods such as rags or absorbent materials to clean up leaks and drips. Leaks are not considered cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.
- *MATERIAL HANDLING.* Handle materials and waste properly to reduce adverse impacts to stormwater quality.
- *SPILL RESPONSE PLAN.* Maintain and update an acceptable spill response plan.
- *TRAINING.* Regularly train all employees on proper methods of handling and disposing of waste. Ensure all employees are well familiar with the Spill Response Plan. Educate employees on these Best Management Practices (BMPs), and stormwater and wastewater discharge requirements and prohibitions.
- *LABELING.* Label all drains within facility boundaries using paint or stencil, to indicate whether flow is to the storm drain, sewer, or oil/water separator.
- *INSPECTION.* Annually inspect and clean storm drain inlets and catch basins within facility boundaries before October 1st.

## FUEL DISPENSING AREAS

- Fueling areas should never be washed down with water unless the wash water is collected and disposed of properly.
- Fit underground storage tanks with spill containment and overfill prevention system meeting the requirements in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.
- Use fuel dispensing nozzles with automatic shutoffs ("hold-open latches"), except where prohibited by local fire departments.
- Post signs at the fuel dispenser or fuel island warning vehicle operators against "topping off" of vehicle fuel tanks.

## OUTDOOR RECEPTACLE AREAS

Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from outside waste receptacles by doing at least one of the following:

- 1) Use only watertight receptacles(s) and keep the lid(s) closed, or
- 2) Grade and pave the waste receptacle area to prevent runoff of storm water, or
- 3) Install a roof over the waste receptacle area, or
- 4) Install a low containment berm around the waste receptacle area, or
- 5) Use and maintain drip pans underneath waste receptacles.

## AIR/WATER SUPPLY AREAS

Minimize the possibility of storm water pollution from air/water supply areas by doing at least one of the following:

- 1) Spot clean leaks and drips routinely to prevent runoff of spillage, or
- 2) Grade and pave the air/water supply area to prevent runoff of storm water, or
- 3) Install a roof over the air/water supply area,
- 4) Install a low containment berm around the air/water supply area,