



## **CITY OF AUBURN**

Public Works Department

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### **City Encourages Businesses to Make a Pledge for Healthy Auburn Waters on this Year's Earth Day**

**AUBURN, Calif - April 18, 2008** - With Earth Day being recognized around the world on April 22, the City of Auburn wants local residents and businesses to take action to protect the environment and our children's future.

“As Earth Day approaches, we want to remind Auburn residents and businesses to renew their efforts to take care of our environment,” said Jack Warren, director of public works for the City of Auburn. “Spring is the time of year we begin thinking about outdoor activities and it is a perfect time to pay special attention to Mother Nature by adopting some good habits.”

As part of the Healthy Auburn Waters campaign launched in January ([www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org](http://www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org)), the city is now reaching out to business owners asking them to take conscious efforts to improve water quality. Among the requests: 1) reduce pollutants going down the sink and into storm drains; 2) collect fats, oils and grease in containers, not the drain; and 3) properly dispose of hazardous waste at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority.

Businesses who agree to these and a few other basic principles earn a Public Service Award for pledging to be good stewards of the environment and they receive window stickers with the campaign logo. Additionally, these businesses will be listed on the Healthy Auburn Waters website with a link to the business URL - essentially free advertising for their good stewardship.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce was the first organization to sign on and is helping spread the word to its members. “It is important for community business owners to take positive steps to reinforce the significance we should all place on our environment,” said Bruce Cosgrove, Chamber CEO. “At the Chamber of Commerce we are proud to join with the City of Auburn; and not only support this program with our words, but publicly pledge with action that we intend to help encourage and protect our local environment.”

The City is also reaching out to children as it does every spring with classroom visits and creek walks. "We teach children how sensitive the creeks are by taking



them on a walk of the area and encouraging them to not litter because of how pollutants can harm wildlife," said Megan Siren, recycling coordinator for the City of Auburn. Creek Walks for this spring will take place on May 22 and 23.

City leaders hope that all of their efforts and the Healthy Auburn Waters campaign will put an end to hazardous waste going into the waterways and sewage system where it increases processing cost and can cause substantial damage to aquatic life. "It is the right thing to do for our pocket book, for Mother Nature and for future generations," said Warren.

Businesses wishing to take the pledge for Healthy Auburn Waters can visit [www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org](http://www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org). The site also provides more information about the proper disposal of household hazardous waste and cooking fats, oils and grease.

**Additional information about Earth Day**

[www.parents.com/parents/story.jsp?storyid=/templatedata/hk/story/data/EarthDayFacts\\_03312005.xml](http://www.parents.com/parents/story.jsp?storyid=/templatedata/hk/story/data/EarthDayFacts_03312005.xml)  
[www.epa.gov/GED/earthday/info.htm](http://www.epa.gov/GED/earthday/info.htm)  
[www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov)

**About the Healthy Auburn Waters Campaign**



The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign -- sponsored by the City of Auburn -- is a public education program that teaches residents and businesses how to properly dispose of chemicals; pesticides; cooking fats, oils and grease; and motor oil and fuel. The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign seeks to protect Auburn waterways and reduce the costs to upgrade the Auburn Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more information, visit [www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org](http://www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org).

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