



## CITY OF AUBURN

Public Works Department

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### Auburn City Leaders Encourage Residents to “Make a Resolution to End Water Pollution in 2008”

AUBURN, Calif. December 20, 2007 -- The city of Auburn today kicked off the Healthy Auburn Waters campaign - a public education program teaching city residents how to care for local streams and rivers. City leaders hope to promote good environmental stewardship among Auburn residents by being careful about what they pour down their sink drain, into the toilet or into the storm drains.



“We need to protect our waterways and teach every person in Auburn that their actions have a direct effect on the environment,” said Bernie Schroeder, engineering division manager for the City of Auburn. “The goal of our campaign is to teach people how to properly dispose of pesticides, fuels, hazardous waste and cooking fats and we also need to stop them from dumping *any* items into our storm drains. Storm drains are for water only.”

To inform residents about the proper disposal of these items, the city is has launched a website [www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org](http://www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org) that contains detailed information about proper disposal of household hazardous waste, specific concerns about these items, links to more information, recent news, and directions to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority’s ([www.WPWMA.com](http://www.WPWMA.com)) Household Hazardous Waste facility in Lincoln.

The goals for Healthy Auburn Waters campaign are to:

1. Promote the proper disposal of **pesticides** and **hazardous waste** at hazardous waste collection events or at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority’s Household Hazardous Waste facility in Lincoln. Disposal is free for Placer County residents. See [www.WPWMA.com](http://www.WPWMA.com) for information and limits.

2. Stop the dumping of **motor oil, gasoline, and solvents** into drains or storm drains. They should be disposed of at the WPWMA facility in Lincoln. Uncontaminated motor oil should be recycled at the Auburn Placer Transfer Station at 12305 Shale Ridge Road in Auburn, at WPWMA or at most auto parts stores.
3. Teach residents that small amounts of cooking **fats, oils and grease (FOG)** should be collected in a jar or tin can and then placed in a solid waste container. Quantities over one quart should be taken to WPWMA for proper disposal.
4. Remind the public that **Lindane**--typically used to treat lice and scabies--is a banned substance and must be disposed of properly. Lindane might be found in old bottles of lice shampoo and in some kennel sprays, all of which should be taken to the WPWMA facility for proper disposal.

Jack Warren, City of Auburn public works director, added that making these changes in disposal habits of household hazardous waste are important steps to keeping the rivers, streams and lakes healthy environments for wildlife and recreation. This can also help the City of Auburn work with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board which issues the permit to operate the city’s wastewater treatment plant.

“If we can eliminate these compounds--particularly the household hazardous waste--from entering our sewer system, we can lessen the impact on our wastewater treatment plant and help the environment,” said Warren. “This education campaign is part of a comprehensive plan to keep our wastewater treatment plant in compliance and keep citizens informed about their responsibility to the environment.”

**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 how to properly dispose of chemicals; pesticides; cooking fats, oils and grease; and motor oil and fuel. Residents should not dump any of these items down their sink drain, into the toilet or down the storm drains. The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign seeks to protect Auburn waterways and save money that would need to be spent in upgrading the Auburn Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more information, visit [www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org](http://www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org).

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