



CITY OF AUBURN

Public Works Department

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Auburn Businesses Take “The Pledge” During Water Quality Month *Healthy Auburn Waters Campaign Promotes Good Stewardship*

AUBURN, Calif – August 5, 2008 - In Auburn where August temperatures often top 100 degrees, citizens are thankful for abundant clear, healthy water. August is National Water Quality Month and local businesses are doing their part to ensure a healthy future by participating in the City of Auburn’s Healthy Auburn Waters campaign.

Local businesses have taken a leading role in promoting the concept of Healthy Auburn Waters (www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org). Many Auburn businesses have signed an agreement to take good care of waterways and adopt safe disposal and recycling practices. Among the first to take **The Pledge** to Principles of Good Stewardship was Maki Heating and Air Conditioning.

“There is nothing more important than preserving our air and water,” said Cheryl Maki of Maki Heating and Air Conditioning. “Fortunately, we live in a community that cares and I am sure many of our businesses already are aware and take care of their waste in the proper way.”

“We took The Pledge because we feel it is important to protect our water and be more ‘green’ for the future of our kids,” said Tom Husak, owner of Skyridge Pharmacy. Husak also said that the pharmaceutical industry has specific guidelines for how medications should be disposed of. “It makes sense to revisit those practices and guidelines occasionally to make sure you are doing your part,” he added.

“Businesses that have taken The Pledge for the Healthy Auburn Waters campaign realize that even a tiny amount of pesticides, chemicals or something like motor oil can have disastrous consequences at the wastewater treatment plant,” said Jack Warren, director of public works for the City of Auburn. “One misstep by the public or any city business can bring in a pollutant that we cannot treat or in very extreme situations, can cripple our treatment plant.”

Warren and city leaders encourage all Auburn businesses to sign up and reap the benefits of the program which includes free advertising on the Healthy Auburn Waters website. “It is easy to sign up and each business gets free advertising on the website. Their participation helps promote the concept of Healthy Auburn Waters to the general public,” said Warren.

In addition to seeing a list of the businesses who have already taken The Pledge, city residents will find that the website offers guidelines for proper disposal of household hazardous waste, automotive products and other chemicals. There are also tips for ‘green cleaning’ and organic gardening advice.

Residents can get involved in National Water Quality Month this August by cleaning their cabinets and garages of unused and outdated chemicals and household hazardous waste (HHW). The Western Placer Waste Management Authority will host a HHW Collection Event on August 23 and 24 at the Gold Country Fairgrounds. Homeowners will be able to bring materials from 8:00 to 4:00 and businesses will have special drop off hours from 4:00 to 6:00 on Saturday. See www.wpwma.com/events.html for guidelines. Drop-offs are accepted year-round and free of charge for Placer County residents at the WPWMA HHW Collection Facility. The collection center is open 8:00 and 5:00 every day and is located at 3033 Fiddymont Road.

Businesses wishing to take **The Pledge** for Healthy Auburn Waters can visit www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org.

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; 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.

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Note to writers:

- Photograph of Cheryl Maki is available upon request.
- Attachment includes list of all current business pledges.
- Attachment of HHW Collection event details.
- Interviews with business owners available. Email or call Jennifer Harrison for contact information.

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