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FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

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POLLUTION PREVENT WEEK

September 17-23 is National Pollution Prevention Week! Pollution Prevention (aka P2) measures can protect the environment before pollution even begins. P2 can also save energy and natural resources, and leave our homes, schools, and workplaces cleaner and safer.

Last Saturday, over 60,000 California volunteers participated in the annual California Coast and Creek Clean-Up Day. Volunteers collected trash and debris from our state and local waterways, helping to prevent these pollutants from moving down the watershed into the ocean.

P2 goes beyond cleaning up the environmental mess we have already made—it means stopping pollution before it even starts.

There are simple things that anyone can do to help prevent pollution. For example, the generation of power can produce significant amounts of pollution. When you purchase new household products, consider those that have earned the ENERGY STAR. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy. Use of these products reduces the demand for power generation and, therefore, reduces pollution.

According to the EPA, Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year, including paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides. When they are not properly handled, household hazardous waste can pose health risk to people and the environment. Check out www.davisrecycling.org to find out how to properly dispose of your hazardous waste. The EPA's website www.epa.gov has information on taking the next step and switching to less hazardous materials.



Volunteers from the Monsanto Corporation help clean up a Davis waterway.

Stormwater P2 means keeping litter, pet wastes, and debris out of the street gutters and storm drains that drain directly to our streams, rivers, and wetlands. You can prevent pollution of our local creeks and waterways by following these simple tips:

- Avoid using toxic products outdoors. If you must use pesticides or fertilizers, do so carefully and sparingly. Do not apply them if rain is expected, as stormwater will wash them into the ponds and creeks. Go to <http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/factsheets.cfm> for information on less toxic control methods.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Never sweep or hose yard waste into gutters or storm drains.
- When you change your oil on your car, take the used oil to a free oil collection center. Visit www.davisrecycling.org or call 757-5686 to find a location near you.
- Take your car to a car wash facility or have the wash water flow into your landscape to prevent soapy water from running off of your property and into the storm drain.
- Pick up and dispose of animal wastes in the garbage so that animal waste is not washed into the stormwater drain.
- Bathe dogs to drown fleas. Use a dog shampoo and increase effectiveness by using a flea comb while the pet is lathered. It is not necessary to use shampoo with insecticide.
- Use kitty litter or another absorbent material to clean spills of paint, cleaners, solvents and other toxic products.
- Clean painting tools in the sink rather than outside onto the sidewalk or in the street.
- If you have a pool or spa, never clean the filter in the street or near a storm drain. Instead, rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area and spade filter residue into your soil.