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www.modestogov.com

City's New Stormwater Permit Provides Better Protection from Pollutants



When the rains come or the sprinklers run too long, water goes into our city's storm drainage system. In some cases, the water ends up in the Tuolumne River, San Joaquin River or Dry Creek. In other instances, runoff goes to the underground water table through percolation basins or individual rockwells.

Since 1994, federal and state law has required that the City of Modesto obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit in order to discharge stormwater. The NPDES Stormwater Permit program is designed to protect and enhance water quality. Every five years, the City of Modesto must renew its NPDES Stormwater Permit. The new permit, issued by the State of California, requires the city to perform certain tasks to protect water quality from runoff caused by rain, which can

have an impact on citizens and construction.

As part of the permit process, the city is required to propose how it will meet the state's objectives for protection of water quality. If the city does not meet the standards it has set for itself and the plans the state has approved, the city could face fines of up to \$25,000 per violation. Therefore, it is in the city's best interest, as well as the best interest of the environment and Modesto's citizens, if the permit and plan are followed.

One effect of the new permit most people will notice is an increase in advertising and public education efforts. This is part of the public outreach component of the permit. Residents will be advised to help protect water quality by not dumping oils and other waste down storm drains.

In order to cut costs associated with meeting the

permit standards and keep the program as inexpensive as possible, many different city departments are involved in implementing the plan, including Engineering and Transportation; Operations and Maintenance; Community and Economic Development; City Attorney; Police; Fire; and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods. All of these departments are working together to carry out the major elements of the stormwater program, including legal authority; illicit discharge; public outreach; municipal, industrial and commercial components; construction; new development; and water quality control.

An example of this cooperation occurs when a city inspector goes out to review new construction. The inspector can also review whether the site has the necessary stormwater pollutant prevention steps in place. Likewise, when a new plan is submitted to the city for review and approval, drawings are checked to ensure stormwater pollutant prevention measures required by the permit are included. These reviews are fairly easy to accomplish.

Other measures required by the permit are more complicated. For instance, the city is obligated to submit a

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Did You Know...?



City of Modesto residents can recycle cardboard a variety of ways:

- Bulky Item Collection: flattened and bundled.
- Blue Bag Recycling: small boxes can be crushed and bagged with other recyclables.
- Black Garbage Can: larger boxes can be flattened and placed along the inside wall of the can.
- Garbage Companies: free recycling for clean cardboard only.
 Bonzi Recycling: 2070 Morgan Rd.
 Gilton Solid Waste: 800 S. McClure Rd.
 Waste Management: 2769 W. Hatch Rd.

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

For more recycling tips, see Pages 3 and 4.

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Tuolumne River Regional Park Master Plan Offers Vision for the Future

Throughout my life, I have looked forward to the days that our family would take a ride down the bike trail over by Dry Creek. It was always a treat to go out with my family and enjoy a nice bike ride and peaceful picnic.



David Paladini

Without realizing it, my family was doing exactly what the Joint Powers Authority

(JPA), comprised of the City of Modesto, City of Ceres and County of Stanislaus, had in mind when they designed the Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP). The JPA began to create a plan in the 1960's that continues to come to life along the shores of the Tuolumne River today.

Recently, I became curious about the huge areas of land and parks down by the Tuolumne River. I spoke with Jim Niskanen, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department at the City of Modesto. He explained that Modesto has taken on the administrative business for

TRRP.

Though the idea of the park was originally developed in the 1960's, the full potential for its development is still in the planning stages and years from completion. Mr. Niskanen explained that just recently the TRRP JPA has completed the Master Plan for TRRP, including the coveted Gateway Section.

This is the 90-acre section of land bordered by Seventh Street and Highway 99 and crossed over by the Ninth Street bridge. The design of this area, including creating a semi-sloped level and adding beautiful native plants, should be completed by the fall of 2004.

I must admit, when I first heard that civilization was getting ahold of 500 acres of forests and grassland, I was a little leery. But I actually became excited as Mr. Niskanen explained to me what the JPA has in store for those 500 acres alongside the river channel and the river itself.

The TRRP project will begin near Mitchell Road and end near Carpenter Road. The river will flow through the center of the park. Because much of this land is subject to flooding, the



designers have found a variety of native plants that can thrive in these type of conditions.

Along with the fun plans for TRRP, the designers have also thought of the biological impact. Right along the river near the airport, there happens to be a mature Valley Oak forest. Because the designers know the natural and sentimental value of having such a riparian forest, they believe that it is our job to maintain it well.

"Riparian" (my new word for the day!) simply means "alongside a river." Riparian zone planting plans require that natural plants and trees alongside the Tuolumne River be distributed properly to their best advantage.

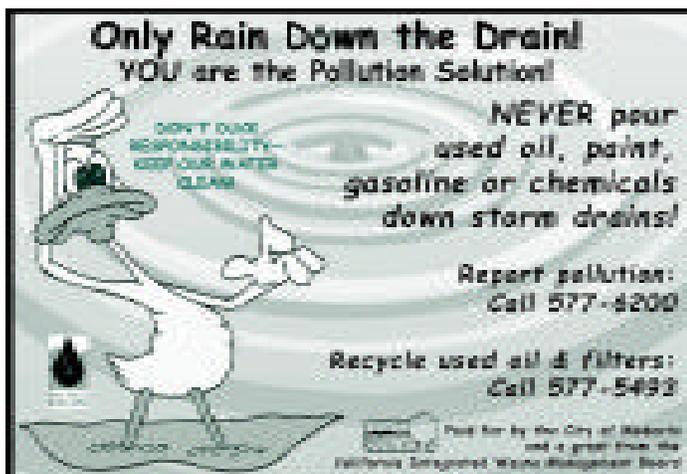
This park will be like no other in our area. Some of the attractions that will be available to us will be river kayaking, fishing, bird watching and active recreation on the river bluffs.

The wildlife in the area is truly wonderful. As you may know, the Tuolumne River area is the home to hundreds of trees, plants and animals. I found out that the Tuolumne is one of the few rivers left in our area that has runs of Chinook Salmon and Steelhead. Along with the great fish population,

there are also hundreds of types of birds and critters, including squirrels, turtles, coyotes, fox, hawks, rabbits, deer, etc. This natural wildlife habitat will be transformed into a beautiful park with a natural feeling where people can go to enjoy creation.

Aside from the fun attractions for families, the park also has economic and educational benefits. The Tuolumne River is the main source that brings water from the Sierras through Modesto and into the San Joaquin River, which feeds a large percentage of the agriculture here in Stanislaus County. It will be educational because the City of Modesto is developing various programs to help both the young and old understand the river and its resources for our city and state.

By now you probably understand why the JPA is so excited about developing this park and protecting the Tuolumne River. Plans for the preservation and beautification of the Tuolumne River started over forty years ago, and they are coming to life today. Someday, we will all benefit from the efforts of those with a vision for maintaining and preserving one of our region's most valuable resources.



Proper Hazardous Waste Disposal Key for Safety



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a term used to describe used items or chemicals commonly found in your home that cannot be put in your garbage cans. Items such as paint, motor oil, drain cleaner, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, cleaning solvents, batteries (household and auto) and antifreeze are all considered hazardous.

Modesto residents can dispose of their HHW for free at the Stanislaus County HHW

Facility. The facility, located at 1716 Morgan Road (near W. Hatch Road and Highway 99), is open each Friday and Saturday from 9:00AM to 1:00PM, except major holidays. In addition, residents can pick up free products the third Friday of each month at the HHW Facility.

For more information, contact the County Department of Environmental Resources at 525-6700 or the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

Access Modesto Seeks Committee Members



accessmodesto
WWW.MODESTO.TV

The City of Modesto is currently accepting applications for the Local Cable Programming Committee. The Local Cable Programming Committee advises the City Council on local programming related to public, educational and governmental (PEG) access; reviews and advises on aspects of cable television; and reviews and makes recommendations regarding various agreements, contracts, procedures and processes for each of the public, education and government access channels.

What is PEG

In the City of Modesto, Channels 2/26, 8/7 and 27/96 on the Comcast cable system have been set aside for use by the members of the public, community organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies as the city's community access channels. This is television made by you, free of censorship and free of commercials. Public access allows for varying degrees of individual's participation.

Local Cable Programming Committee Requirements

- Meetings: Quarterly
- Term: Four Years
- Membership: Members must be residents of the City of Modesto or that portion of Stanislaus County served by the franchise.

For more information, contact the Information Technology Department at 571-5548, or email info@modesto.tv.

Garden Refuse Collection Schedule

The following calendar provides you with the specific dates when your pruned refuse may be placed out for collection. Remember, it takes approximately two weeks following these dates for crews to pick up in your collection area. Pruned refuse is only collected once a month.

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April
S T R E E T S	Fri. 10/31	LEAVES ONLY!	1/2	1/30	2/27	4/2
	Sa. 11/1	Garden refuse resumes	1/3	1/31	2/28	4/3
	Su. 11/2	January '04	1/4	2/1	2/29	4/4
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April
A L L E Y S	Fri. 11/14	LEAVES ONLY!	1/16	2/13	3/12	4/16
	Sa. 11/15	Garden refuse resumes	1/17	2/14	3/13	4/17
	Su. 11/16	January '04	1/18	2/15	3/14	4/18



Free! City of Modesto Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Recycling Program

CRT's are found in TV's and computer monitors and contain large amounts of lead and other hazardous materials. They cannot be put in the garbage. Modesto residents may recycle up to two CRT's per calendar year for free. Help keep our community clean and safe—recycle properly!

Here's How:

- 1) Call your garbage company and request a CRT coupon.
- 2) Redeem the coupon with your CRT's at your garbage company.

- Modesto Disposal 538-2210
- Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781
- Bertolotti Disposal 537-8000



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rockwell assessment plan. Rockwells are dry wells dug for the purpose of disposing of stormwater from the surface to groundwater. To prepare a rockwell assessment plan, the city must study the relationship between rockwells and water quality protection, in this case groundwater quality. Since more than sixty percent (60%) of the city's the stormwater goes to rockwells, this is an important study. In order to save costs and have an excellent assessment at the same time, the city is working with the United States Geological Survey to study the

groundwater in Modesto. In the end, the study will show how well these rockwells protect water sources from pollutants.

As a result of these mandated efforts, the city's groundwater, basins, Dry Creek and the Tuolumne River will be better protected from pollutants. This higher level of protection will be more costly, but the city is committed to keeping the program efficient by maximizing use of existing staff, and thereby serving both the public and the environment.

For more information about the city's Stormwater Permit, please call 577-6377.

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule



Garbage collection will run one (1) day late due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Christmas

- If your regular collection day is Thurs. the 25th, your pickup will be Fri. the 26th.
- If your regular collection day is Fri. the 26th, your pickup will be Sat. the 27th.

New Year's

- If your regular collection day is Thurs. the 1st, your pickup will be Fri. the 2nd.
- If your regular collection day is Fri. the 2nd, your pickup will be Sat. the 3rd.

Bulky Item Collection Program Cut-Off Dates



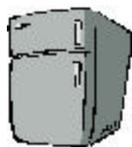
The last day to schedule an appointment to have your large items picked up in 2003 is nearing.

If you need to have any items picked up, you must schedule your appointment by December 12 in order to have your items picked up in 2003.

(All calls for appointments after December 12 will be scheduled for January 2004 and will count towards one of your appointments for that year.)

Please call your garbage company to schedule your appointment and find out about program restrictions.

- **Waste Management** 538-2210
- **Gilton Solid Waste** 527-3781
- **Bertolotti Disposal** 537-8000



Modesto's CRV Recycling Center Locations



Recycling California Redemption Value (CRV) containers, including ready-to-drink products in glass, plastic and aluminum containers, has never been easier in Modesto. Eight recycling locations are now conveniently located throughout Modesto, including:

- A & S Metals
1616 Angelo Way
- Central Valley Recycling
524 S. 9th St.
- Modesto Junk Company
1403 9th St.
- Raley's Supermarket
2401 E. Orangeburg Ave.
- Richland Market
3801 Yosemite Blvd.
- Save Mart Supermarket
2601 Oakdale Rd.
- Save Mart Supermarket
3900 Pelandale Rd.
- Save Mart Supermarket
415 Paradise Rd.

For more information, call 1-800-RECYCLE or the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.



Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE
LIMIT 2 FLATS - BAGS PER COUPON OFFER EXPIRES 12/15/2003

Bulky Item Collection —by appointment only—



- For active, residential garbage service customers only (black and green garbage totes).
- For large household items, like furniture, appliances, toilets, etc.
- NO TV's, tires, auto parts, household garbage, hazardous waste or construction debris (wood, concrete, sheetrock, etc.)
- Place items out the evening before appointment or you may be subject to citation and fine.

Call your garbage company to schedule an appointment. Questions? Call the City of Modesto at 577-5494.