



# City of Modesto

## CITY PRIDE

August 2001

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

### How much land is available?

## Urban growth update to reflect current conditions

This November, Modesto residents will vote on whether to extend sewer trunk lines and service to land in northeast Modesto and to two smaller "islands" of unincorporated land completely surrounded by city land.

The City Council voted to put the advisory votes on the November ballot to address sewer extension to a 480-acre parcel of land in the Roselle/Claribel Comprehensive Planning District and the two smaller areas within town.

The matters came to the City Council last month as part of the final report on the five-month review of Modesto's Urban Area Growth Policy Review.

The Urban Area Growth Policy Review examines whether there is enough land available to accommodate anticipated growth in the next five years.

The City's general plan calls for a periodic review of the growth policy. Modesto last reviewed the policy in 1995, but because of a boom

in housing and economic development during the past several years, the policy did not reflect current conditions. It is now recommended in the report to conduct reviews of the policy and inventory every two years.

"The inventory is a very important planning tool," said Patrick Kelly, the city's principal planner, "because it

development. It also projects how much land will be needed for economic development during the next five years to accommodate anticipated growth in residential, regional commercial, and business park land uses."

The review process began in February and included a series of eight public work-

shops and meetings with the council's Community Development and Housing Committee.

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Modesto City Council -- 571-5169

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Tim Fisher  
Councilmember Bill Conrad  
Councilmember Bruce Frohman

Councilmember Kenni Friedman  
Councilmember Mike Serpa  
Councilmember Armour Smith



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## What happens in our city storm drains?



David Paladini

As my family and I were walking past a storm drain, my sister said, "I wonder what would happen if I dropped my ring down the drain?"

To answer that question I talked to Nathan Gorth, code enforcement manager for the Solid Waste Management Department of the City of Modesto. He explained that there are three kinds of storm drains in Modesto: rockwells, retention basins and positive drains.

A rockwell drain is a pit that is about 20 to 75 feet deep. The drain is found in the gutter, which leads down to a catch basin. This is where things like my sister's ring and other heavy objects would stay. Then the water goes into a core pipe where rocks and sand in the pipe filters the water. With this kind of storm drain only some of the water is soaked into the ground. When the ground is thoroughly saturated, it just doesn't hold any more water. The water then overflows into the area around it. There are about 10,500 rockwell storm drains in Modesto.

A positive storm drain goes straight from a gutter to

a river or a creek. There are about 40 locations in Modesto where water is discharged into the Tuo-lumne River or Dry Creek through positive storm drains.

Probably the most efficient kind of storm drain in Modesto is the retention basin drain. Water from the drain flows directly to a large retention basin, like the one at the corner of Pelandale and Prescott. The water in the retention basin is filtered down through a layer of rock and sand at the bottom. This basin can hold a lot of water so it doesn't overflow as easily as a rockwell.

A lot of people think storm drain water is treated but it is not treated before it is released into the rivers, creeks or canals. So when we put things like oil, antifreeze, and pesticides into the gutters, we are actually polluting the water that we use for irrigation, farming and other things. It also hurts our environment and animal life when

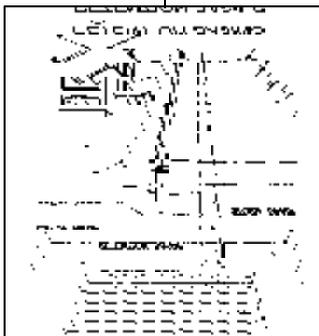
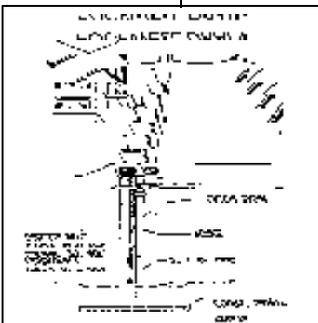
we pollute our water.

Cars are the largest source of stormwater pollution from oil, antifreeze, and wiper fluid which clog the drains.

If you change your oil at home there are many ways of getting rid of the old oil instead of illegally dumping it into the gutters and drains. You can arrange for a pick-up from your garbage company or you can take the old oil into some auto stores. Some auto stores even pay you or give you store credit. For locations to take used oil call 1-800-CLEANUP.

Cheryl Heller in the City's Operations & Maintenance Department heads a program to let everybody know about the danger of polluting our storm drains. Storm drains throughout the city are being labeled to remind residents not to put anything down the storm drain. Informational door hangers are also left at homes to provide reminders.

*Next month, read about the cleaning of city storm drains.*



### Learn more about stormwater

In honor of pollution prevention week, September 17-23, city staff is available to make stormwater presentations in the classroom and for community organizations during the month of September.

To inquire further or schedule a presentation, call 577-5493.

### Take a walk for the environment

The City of Modesto is still looking for volunteers to distribute door hangers in residential neighborhoods throughout the city. The door hangers have pollution prevention tips and information about Modesto's Storm Drain Systems.

Volunteers will be given maps of the area they need to cover and can walk alone or with other volunteers.

Please call Storm Drain Stenciling Coordinator Cheryl Heller at 577-6257 to set up a time to Walk for the Environment.



## Vote to be binding --

# Council delays fluoride decision until November

Modesto residents will vote this November on adding fluoride to the city's drinking water system and increasing their water bills two percent. The vote will be binding rather than simply advisory.

The Modesto City Council voted last month to provide voters a chance to weigh in on the issue of a two-percent across-the-board water rate increase to fluoridate the city's drinking water system. The vote was originally intended to be advisory only, but a group supporting the fluoridation asked the council late last month to make the vote binding. The City Council agreed 5-2 to make the citizen vote final.

Fluoridating the City's water system has been controversial. The City received protests from more than 7,000 property owners relating to the fluoridation issue.

The proposed two percent fee increase in water zones 1, 2 and part of zone 3, is needed to fund \$500,000 in ongoing operations and maintenance costs related to fluoridation of the water system.

## Recycle drink containers

As of January 2001, nearly all ready-to-drink products in glass, plastic, aluminum, or bi-metal containers are subject to the California Refund Value (CRV). CRV is 2.5 cents on containers less than 24 ounces, and 5 cents on containers 24 ounces or larger.

Excluded items include milk, medical food, infant for-

mula, wine, 100% fruit juice in containers 46 ounces or more, and vegetable juice above 16 ounces.

There are more than 2,000 convenient recycling centers in California. For a center location near you, please call 1-800-RECYCLE or visit [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) online for more details.

**Water is precious,  
today . . . every day.**

*For free gardening guides, leaky toilet repair kits and kids' water activity kits, call the City of Modesto at 342-4560*

*or go online at*

**[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)**

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.modestogov.com>

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency - Police/Fire/Medical .....	9-1-1
Graffiti Vandalism (in progress) .....	9-1-1
Flooding (24 hours) .....	577-6200
Sandbags .....	342-2244
Fire Department .....	572-9590
Fire Prevention (hazards, complaints, etc.) .....	571-5553
Police Department (24 hours - Dispatch) .....	552-2470
Police Department (main) .....	572-9500
Police Department NE Area Office .....	572-9657
Police Department NW Area Office .....	572-9635
Police Department SE Area Office .....	572-9638
Police Department SW Area Office .....	572-9676
Abandoned Autos Hotline .....	572-9511
Animal Control (City of Modesto only) .....	552-2470
Graffiti Abatement (24 hours) .....	342-2259
Neighborhoods (Blight, Illegal Dumping, etc.) .....	577-5250
Water Wasters .....	571-5103
City Hall Information .....	577-5200
City Hall at the Mall .....	571-5590
TDD Only .....	526-9211
Modesto City Council .....	571-5169
Modesto Centre Plaza .....	577-6444
Dial-A-Ride .....	527-4900
MAX Buses .....	521-1274
Building Inspections .....	577-5232
Dog Licenses .....	577-5389
Garbage/Recycling Information .....	577-5494
Garden Refuse/Sidewalk/Street Hazards .....	342-2249
Golf Reservations & Information .....	491-4653
Park Repairs .....	342-2248
Public Information Office .....	577-5222
Recreation Programs/Park Reservations .....	577-5344
Street Lights .....	342-2296
Street Trees .....	342-2249
Sewer/Storm Drain (Illegal Dumping) .....	577-6200
Traffic Signal Problems .....	342-2297
Traffic Signs .....	342-2247
Used Oil Recycling .....	577-5493
Water-Sewer-Garbage Billing .....	577-5395
Water Repairs/Temporary On-Offs(24 hours) .....	342-2246

CLIP AND SAVE . . . CLIP AND SAVE . . . CLIP AND SAVE



## Prevent pollution with these easy tips

Pollution Prevention Week is September 17-23.

Practice pollution prevention and help solve the problem before it's created!

### At home

- Use the plunger instead of harsh chemicals
- Mix baking soda and water or vinegar as an all purpose cleaner
- Install energy efficient lights
- Turn down your water heater
- Hand pick garden weeds
- Grasscycle lawn clippings
- Remember, "Only Rain Down The Drain!"

### At the office

- Make copies double-sided to reduce waste
- Turn off lights and equipment when you go home
- Carpool whenever possible.

More great pollution prevention tips are available on the City of Modesto website at [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com).

Modesto residents can dispose of their hazardous waste at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 1716 Morgan Road. Drop-off hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information please call 525-4123.

## PUBLIC - EDUCATION - GOVERNMENT TELEVISION STUDIO

### COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Thursday, August 23, 2001 • 6:00 p.m.

Tenth Street Place

1010 Tenth Street, Basement Chambers

Downtown Modesto

The City of Modesto is working with community groups and public agencies to develop a Public-Education-Government Television Studio.

This workshop will help assess the community's needs for quality programming in the areas of public access, education and government on the local cable television system.

For more information call 577-5463



CITY OF MODESTO



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 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON  
OFFER EXPIRES 9/15/2001

Available at these local nurseries:

**Hischier's Nursery**

1520 Standiford Avenue

**Scenic Nursery**

1313 Scenic Drive

**Westurf**

1612 Claus Road

## FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASSES

The City of Modesto is offering free backyard composting classes to Modesto residents.

### Wednesday Classes

September 12, and October 24

Modesto Junior College • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register call 575-6063

BACKYARD COMPOST BINS - \$26.30 each  
To order call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.

