



EcoNotes

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Claremont McKenna
College

Watershed Management

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It's the Simple Things:

- Don't drop your cigarette butt or soda can on the ground. Throw it away!
- Pick up after Fido when you go for a walk.
- Don't over water your lawn at home.
- Never dump motor oil into a storm drain or on the ground. Take it to a hazardous disposal site or one of several locations in Claremont that accept used oil.

As a result of the recent California wildfires, the hillsides around us are much different. The soil has essentially been baked and will not absorb as much rain water as before. Consequently, a good deal more water will find its way onto our streets and into our storm drains. It has become even more important for us to think about managing our watershed areas.

What is "watershed management"? According to the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water, "a watershed is the land area where water collects and drains onto a lower level property into a river, ocean, or other body of water. Watershed manage-

ment is the integration and coordination of activities that affect the watershed's natural resources and water quality." Watershed areas either become part of the ground water or lead to storm drains that ultimately run off into the ocean. In either case, the water goes directly back to nature without any filtration or treatment.

Given this information, it becomes clear that we need to rethink our habits and how they might affect our water quality. If our ground water becomes contaminated by pesticides or our storm drains send mo-



tor oil to the ocean, we are indeed creating a devastating environmental footprint.

Please review this issue of EcoNotes, and share it with a friend. We have included many ideas, some of them new and some of them tried and true reminders of why it is so very important that we manage the water around us.

California Beach Closures

Human waste, animal waste, motor oil, soda cans, bottles, syringes, and more. That's what we swim in when we "get away" to the beach. Yummy!

According to the Natural Resources Defense

Council's annual survey, California had 4,653 beach closings and advisories last year. Orange County reported the highest number, followed by Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.

One bright spot in this is a state initiative passed

in 2001 that has provided \$20 million to improve storm drains and increase public awareness. We encourage you raise your own awareness on this topic and do what you can to protect our beaches.

Data Source: nbc4.tv

Claremont McKenna College

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EcoNotes is published by the Environmental Concerns Committee, a group comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Any submissions or comments can be directed to the Facilities and Campus Services department. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

We're on the web!
www.claremontmckenna.edu

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Most household chemicals such as cleaners, medicines, auto fluids, paint, pesticides, and lawn care products are safe enough to keep around. However, when they are disposed of improperly, they become hazardous materials. When thrown in the regular trash, they can become dangerous to those who handle them. When they are dumped on the ground, they can contaminate the ground water. When poured down a sink or flushed down a toilet, they are sent to a treatment center that is not equipped to handle them. When they are poured into a storm drain, they end up on our beaches.

Please take your household chemicals to one of these locations:

Claremont City Yard

215 Cornell Avenue

Brackett Field—La Verne

Fairplex Dr. and West McKinley Ave.



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CMC Water Use Statistics

In California, water quality is an issue and so is water conservation. This is, after all, a desert we live in. Following are some water use statistics gathered by the facilities department. Overall cost decreased 1.68% and consumption decreased 5.86%. Keep up the good work! (Consumption is shown in CCF's: 100 cubic feet)

	Cost			Consumption		
	F '02	F '03	% Change	F '02	F '03	% Change
July	\$18,611.94	\$20,020.80	7.57%	10,066	10,821	7.50%
August	\$19,959.55	\$20,898.65	4.71%	11,274	11,359	0.75%
September	\$20,539.24	\$22,344.60	8.79%	12,479	12,328	-1.21%
October	\$18,002.81	\$18,556.97	3.08%	10,926	9,847	-9.88%
November	\$15,792.34	\$12,447.93	-21.18%	7,958	5,884	-26.06%
December	\$10,485.40	\$9,972.00	-4.90%	4,664	4,298	-7.85%
January	\$8,925.25	\$10,805.18	21.08%	3,613	4,888	34.74%
February	\$12,880.01	\$12,428.13	-3.51%	6,228	5,945	-4.54%
March	\$13,051.24	\$8,347.10	-36.04%	6,313	3,173	-49.74%
April	\$15,056.01	\$12,147.48	-19.32%	7,631	5,670	-25.70%
May	\$17,120.81	\$15,859.42	-7.37%	9,003	8,070	-10.36%
June	\$17,624.10	\$21,058.63	19.49%	9,332	11,396	22.12%
Totals	\$188,048.70	\$184,886.89	-1.68%	99,487	93,659	-5.86%