



Environmental Stewardship: Technology in Balance with Nature

Water Wise Pest Control Program

In an effort to protect the health of Sacramento's creeks and rivers, the Water Wise Pest Control program educates the public on healthy alternatives to pesticide usage. Through the program, literature detailing safe, effective and practical pest control alternatives to pesticides is made available at point-of purchase displays in participating nurseries.

The program also educates the public on the proper disposal of garden pesticides at local Household Hazardous Waste facilities. Water Wise is a partnership of SRCSD; the County of Sacramento; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento; the University of California Master Gardeners; and the University of California Integrated Pest Management Program.

Lindane Program

Lindane is used in prescription shampoo to treat head lice and in prescription creams to treat the skin mite, scabies. Lindane lasts for a long time in the environment, where it can contaminate the tissues of fish and wildlife. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has declared lindane to be a persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemical. This program educates the public about lindane's harmful environmental impacts and proper disposal methods of lindane-containing products.

Sacramento River Watershed Program

Stretching 27,000 square miles from the Oregon border to the Sacramento Delta, the Sacramento River watershed covers most of Northern California, linking every aspect of life in the region. As one of the largest watersheds in the United States, it serves as an important source of drinking water and recreation as well as a vital economic artery for commerce and agriculture. Therefore, preserving and maintaining its water quality is crucial.

SRCSD obtained federal funding to initiate the formation of the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP), which brings together dozens of stakeholder groups and thousands of individuals who have an interest in the health of the Sacramento River and its watershed. SRWP's mission is to ensure that current and potential uses of the watershed's resources are sustained, restored, and where possible, enhanced, while promoting the long-term social and economic vitality of the region.

Sacramento River Coordinated Monitoring (CMP) Program

In 1991, SRCSD formed a historic partnership with the City of Sacramento and Sacramento County's Department of Water Resources to improve our understanding of water quality in the Sacramento and American rivers. Concerned about the lack of reliable scientific data about pollutants in our rivers, these agencies joined to establish the nationally recognized Sacramento Coordinated Monitoring Program, or CMP. With SRCSD as the lead agency, this program has resulted in reliable data on a number of pollutants of concern for Sacramento-area water quality.



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Talking about environmental protection is good, but doing something to actively help the environment is even better. At the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD), we believe that protecting the environment for future generations requires a concerted effort across many fronts. Motivated by a strong environmental ethic, dedicated staff throughout our organization lead the way in environmental action founded on the latest scientific research and accomplished with appropriate uses of technology.

SRCSD is involved in many environmental efforts:

Water Recycling Program

Recycled water is treated wastewater that has undergone additional filtration and disinfection processes to make the water safe for non-potable (non-drinking) uses such as irrigating landscapes, parks and school sites. Using recycled water whenever possible helps reduce the demand for potable (drinking) water. Currently, recycled water is being used to irrigate street medians, commercial landscaping, parks and school sites in the Laguna West, Lakeside and Stone Lakes developments in Elk Grove, CA.

Biosolids Recycling Program

SRCSD and Synagro Technologies, Inc., have teamed up in a public/private partnership to operate a new Biosolids Recycling Facility in Elk Grove, California, at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP). This partnership brings together SRCSD's vision, forethought and dedication to environmental stewardship with Synagro's expertise in biosolids management to design, build, own and operate the first biosolids pelletizer facility in the state.

This ultra modern facility processes approximately 7,300 dry tons of biosolids annually into a high-quality, commercial grade, Class A organic fertilizer product that will be marketed to the horticultural, landscape and agricultural markets across the state of California and beyond.

Methane Recycling Program

Methane gas, a by-product of the solids digestion process, is burned to produce electricity at a cogeneration facility owned by Carson Energy and located next to SRWTP. The electricity is sold to the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. In the event of an extended power failure, this electricity would also serve as a backup power supply to keep the treatment plant running through any emergency.





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The Bufferlands

It's important for wastewater treatment plants to be good neighbors to local communities. In the 1970s, SRCSD planned a large undeveloped buffer area between its Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and surrounding neighborhoods in southern Sacramento County. That far-sighted decision led to conservation of increasingly scarce wetlands, grasslands and riparian forest habitats on SRCSD's 2,650 acres of Bufferlands.

Today, the specialists in our Bufferlands office work to preserve and enhance these precious natural resources by applying adaptive habitat management practices. SRCSD's Bufferlands provides phenomenal habitat for hundreds of wildlife species, including more than 200 species of birds.

Splash

Sacramento Splash is an environmental science program for 5th grade students in Sacramento County. It provides curriculum and assistance for students to explore the diversity of life in our local creeks, vernal pools and lakes, in the classroom and in the field.

Sacramento Splash is a joint program sponsored by SRCSD, Sacramento County Water Resources Department and the City of Sacramento Utilities. The sponsoring agencies have long recognized the need to provide water quality educational opportunities for the Sacramento community. Splash's vernal pool curriculum helps students explore the diversity of aquatic life in pristine and polluted aquatic habitats. Through their studies, students gain awareness of the importance of water quality, natural habitats and pollution prevention. They also learn about the preservation of natural resources, water conservation and environmental stewardship.



"Be Mercury Free," A Regional Partnership for Mercury Pollution Reduction

SRCSD, in partnership with the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership (SSQP), is striving to educate Sacramento residents and businesses about the sources and effects of mercury and how to reduce the amount of mercury entering the Sacramento River watershed.

"Be Mercury Free" is a regional partnership making a comprehensive effort through outreach and education to eliminate common sources of mercury pollution, such as mercury thermometers found in households, old laboratory equipment in schools and universities, blood-pressure cuffs used in hospitals, and amalgam ("silver") fillings used in dental offices—which, if disposed of improperly, can contribute to mercury pollution up in the watershed. By providing information and resources specific to each source of mercury pollution, "Be Mercury Free," A Regional Partnership for Mercury Pollution Reduction, is working to significantly reduce the amount of mercury entering the local watershed.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program

The FOG program educates residents and business owners on the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease, which are prime culprits in sewer pipe blockages and related overflows. The program is a joint partnership between SRCSD, County Sanitation District 1 (which serves the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County) and the cities of Folsom, Sacramento and West Sacramento.

