

## **City of Los Fresnos Stormwater Pollution Prevention**

Stormwater Pollution Prevention has been an area of importance for the City of Los Fresnos. The Public Works Department has always played an integral role in maintaining our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) from potential pollution hazards. As more technology is available and more data is collected, our City is committed in making Stormwater pollution prevention a priority. If left unchecked, Stormwater pollution has the potential to adversely affect our recreation areas and our environment.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), in conjunction with the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) has mandated several responsibilities that each MS4 needs to implement to comply with the General Stormwater Permit (TXR040000). Public Outreach and Education is one of the functions that the Public Works Department performs to comply with the permit. An example of Public Outreach and Education is the distribution of various mail-outs like our utility bills, drinking Consumer Confidence Reports, and our City website. The Department takes the lead in providing helpful tips to our citizens in preventing Stormwater pollution. We help our residents identify inlets and where our storm water flows. Most of our storm runoff drains towards the Laguna Madre or the Brownsville Ship Channel. Other resources like Rack cards provide our residents helpful tips and suggestions to prevent Stormwater pollution. These are publicly displayed and available at City Hall, the Library, and at the Public Works office.

Throughout our MS4, we have marked our inlets to promote awareness of where rain water will drain to. Signs near Resacas and inlets have also been placed to promote awareness of our sensitive ecology. These avenues help remind folks that pouring hazardous liquids or debris down the inlet will affect our waterways.

In addition, the City has invested on a street sweeper that routinely sweeps our City streets to help control the amount of sediment entering our inlets. While most sediment accumulation may seem insignificant, the City goes the extra mile to protect our environment by helping minimize the impact sediment and/or particles have on the receiving waterways from our MS4.

Public Works periodically inspects all of our inlets throughout our MS4. Inspections includes looking for illicit discharges that are caused by a "Point Source" (has a direct source) or "Nonpoint Source" (usually a pipe that gathers Stormwater from many locations). An example of an illicit discharge would be water accumulation running towards a drain in a perfectly sunny and dry day. Investigating sources of water runoff helps eliminate the potential of Stormwater pollution.

While the Public Works Department takes the lead in promoting Stormwater Pollution Prevention, all of our employees take to heart the responsibility of keeping our environment healthy and free of pollution by conveying potential pollution hazards to the Public Works Department.

In recent years, Stormwater Pollution Prevention has become more extensive. The subject has the potential to be very detailed and consuming as there is an abundance of meetings, trainings, inspections, research, and maintenance that all play a part in meeting the requirements of the General Stormwater Permit, however the City and the Public Works Department utilizes all of the resources available to best comply with the Stormwater General permit.

## What is Stormwater?



## Potential Sources of Stormwater Pollution



Signage and Inlet Buttons





## Community Outreach and Education



### Why is Stormwater Pollution Prevention so important?



### STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

For more information on our Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program and tips please visit our website at <https://cityoflosfresnos.com/publicworks>. Additional information is available at the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/npdes](http://www.epa.gov/npdes) or at the Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Management's website at [www.rgvstormwater.org](http://www.rgvstormwater.org). To report an illicit discharge please call 956-233-5768 or 956-233-4473 after hours.