

Who Ya Gonna Call about Water Pollution?

Reporting suspected pollution problems, including dumping near creeks, can avoid property damage (like slides) and health hazards (such as sewer leaks). It also can be key to survival of fish and wildlife.

What is pollution?

- Dumping or hosing ANYTHING other than rain water into creeks, storm drains, or San Francisco Bay is pollution. This includes treated drinking water (lethal to fish), trash, soil, paint, pet feces, soap, pesticides, fertilizer, garden clippings, dirt, rocks, and concrete slurry or dust.
- Sewage leaks of any kind are pollution. (Look for remnants of toilet paper around clean-outs). So are discharges of drinking water from hoses or broken pipes. Chloramines used to purify this water are lethal to aquatic life.
- Permits and protective measures are required where grading or building could cause erosion or release significant amounts of silt.
- Construction or clearing on creek banks requires permits from the California Department of Fish and Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

For a broken hydrant or water main, or flooding in the street, call EBMUD, 1-866-403-2683 and/or local numbers below.

For dumping or spills in progress, or if you smell gasoline or see something dangerous, call police or fire, 911 if appropriate.

For spills or dumping not in progress, or broken water mains:

- **In Berkeley:** After hours, call Berkeley Public Works (510) 981-6620. During business hours, call 311. Most effective: Email a GPS'd cell phone photo with brief explanation and location to customerservice@cityofberkeley.info, requesting case number and follow-up re referral.
- **In Albany:** Call Albany Police Department's Non-Emergency: (510) 525-7300.
- **In El Cerrito:** During office hours, call Stege Sanitary District (510) 524-4668 (sewer leaks) or El Cerrito Environmental Programs (510) 559-7685 (other pollution including water-main breaks). After hours, call El Cerrito Police non-emergency line, 510-237-3233, or if appropriate emergency line, 510-233-1214.
- **In Richmond:** You can use the COR Connect button on the city web site, <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/>, to make reports including photos. Or call the Code Enforcement hotline, 510-965-4905.
- **In Contra Costa County,** call 1-800-NO DUMPING.

If work in a stream bed seems likely to cause serious erosion or harm wildlife, or if you suspect such work is being done without a State Department of Fish and Game Permit, call California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bay Delta Region at (707) 944-5500 or the 24-hour CalTIP line, 1-888-334-CalTIP. If construction is involved, also call local building inspectors.

If you are not satisfied with the response to a report, call the Regional Water Quality Control Board (state agency in charge of water-quality programs), (510) 622-2300.



The environmental watchdog group **San Francisco Baykeeper** asks for reports of pollution on an online form here: <https://baykeeper.org/content/report-pollution>

Friends of Five Creeks also is interested -- (510) 848-9358 or f5creeks@gmail.com. Find this guide on our web site: www.fivecreeks.org/info/.

Note: This handout is not up to date. Check contacts and links.