Rain or irrigation water can pick up motor oil, pesticides, solvents, litter, and other pollutants as it flows over rooftops, parking lots, roadways, sidewalks, and landscaping. Installing stormwater treatment facilities — such as swales, biofilters, or infiltration basins — can help capture and prevent pollutants from reaching the storm drain system. Property owners are required by Title 20.95.120 of the San Jose Municipal Code to properly maintain and keep in good repair all such facilities and devices.

The San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (Permit) sets forth regulations for cities in the Bay Area to prevent stormwater pollution. The Permit specifically requires development projects of a certain size to incorporate stormwater treatment facilities to treat runoff for pollutants before it flows into the storm drain system. As done in other cities, San José inspectors will inspect these facilities to ensure they are operating and maintained.

Pollutants on streets can be washed into storm drains and reach our creeks and Bay, harming the fish, plants, and wildlife that live there. You can help keep pollutants out of the storm drain system by adhering to municipal code requirements and properly maintaining and operating the stormwater treatment facilities on your property.

For more information about the City of San José’s stormwater protection programs, visit:
www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/stormwater

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 945-3000 (Voice) or (800) 735-2929 (CRS).

Thank you for doing your part to help protect the water quality of our creeks and Bay!
Maintaining Mechanical (Vault-Based) Stormwater Treatment Devices

Vault-based stormwater treatment devices remove pollutants by capturing debris and filtering runoff. Common vault-based devices are media filters and hydrodynamic separators.

Maintaining Landscape-Based Stormwater Treatment Facilities

Landscape-based stormwater treatment facilities, such as vegetated swales, infiltration basins, and biofilters, remove pollutants in stormwater by filtering runoff through vegetation and soil. They must be properly maintained in order to function.

Maintenance activities include but are not limited to:

- Maintain vegetation and replace dead plants or turf — for guidance on plant selection, see the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program Plant List for Stormwater Measures at www.scvurppp.org.
- Repair any damage, such as erosion.
- Remove sediment accumulation that may result after periods of heavy rain or irrigation.
- Remove litter and debris regularly.
- Minimize the application of fertilizers and pesticides; use alternatives to toxic pesticides — see www.ourwaterourworld.org for recommended alternatives.

Proper maintenance is essential for these facilities to perform their job in capturing pollutants.

Your responsibilities

- Schedule maintenance according to the device manufacturer’s specifications.
- Maintain records of all maintenance and inspection activities.

Responsibilities of certified maintenance worker

- Remove sediment, trash, or debris.
- Replace media filters as necessary.
- Check for and remove mosquito larvae.