

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) conducts several dozen types of pollution prevention program activities (see the *1997 Clean Bay Plan Summary* for a list). Programs for vehicle service facilities, printed circuit board manufacturers and metal finishers, and pools are described in more detail below. These are representative examples of the pollution prevention activities conducted by the RWQCP.

Vehicle Service Facilities. Historically, vehicle service facilities have discharged pollutants to both sewers and storm drains. The RWQCP vehicle service facility pollution prevention program focuses on education, recognition of compliant facilities, and the implementation of an ordinance requiring compliance with specific pollution -preventing practices. The 350 facilities targeted by this program include auto repair shops, gasoline stations, fleet maintenance facilities, commercial car washes, parts cleaning and repair facilities, and autobody repair shops. Since 1992, program implementation has involved annual visits for education and interaction with facility operators to increase compliance rates, strong encouragement to eliminate sewer discharges, enforcement to eliminate storm drain discharges, permitting of facilities electing to continue discharging to the sewer, and designation of top performers as Clean Bay Businesses.

Printed Circuit Board Manufacturers and Metal Finishers. In 1991 and 1992, major metals dischargers in the RWQCP service area (primarily metal finishers and printed circuit board manufacturers) were required to prepare waste minimization studies. RWQCP staff and consultants reviewed the plans and made further recommendations for waste minimization. Since study completion, RWQCP staff urged facilities to implement identified measures. In January 1994, the RWQCP completed detailed pollution prevention studies of six printed circuit board manufacturers and metal finishers, with the intent of using the data as the basis for development of new discharge limits for these industries. These studies identified direct relationships between (1) water conservation and reduction in pollutant discharge to the sewer, and (2) hazardous materials use minimization and sewer discharge pollutant reductions. On the basis of these findings, the RWQCP developed a set of "Reasonable Control Measures," which are being used as minimum standards for pollution prevention in the metal finishing and printed circuit board manufacturing industry. Although the new discharge limits for these two business types are stringent, the use of new requirements focusing on pollution prevention and projects with positive payback has minimized the potential economic impact on these key Silicon Valley industries.

Pools, Spas, and Fountains. The RWQCP conducted an educational program for pool maintenance companies and pool owners. The RWQCP urged use of non-copper containing pool products, and requires that pool water be discharged to the sewer rather than to storm drains. Pool program activities included preparing informational pamphlets, distributing the literature to maintenance services and pool, spa, and fountain owners. RWQCP staff enlisted pollution prevention programs from Sunnyvale to Belmont to join the demonstration project.