

Surface Cleaning Pollution Prevention Program

The cleaning of sidewalks, plazas, dumpster areas, buildings, and parking areas can be a significant source of water pollution to creeks and San Francisco Bay. When soapy, grimy wastes reach the street, gutter, or storm drain, they flow directly to local creeks—with no treatment. Both the facility owner/operator and the cleaner are liable for these discharges to the storm drain system. A new training program for surface cleaners, sponsored in part by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, provides methods for simple, safe, and legal cleaning and disposal. In the Bay Area, about 70 cleaning contractors have been trained on these new procedures.

The local sewage treatment plant (officially the Regional Water Quality Control Plant—Palo Alto) is interested in making sure businesses and property owners in its service area (East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Stanford) are aware of the new procedures and the training program so that in-house staff and contractors do the job right and minimize the owner/operator's liability.

Geoff Brosseau—consultant to the Regional Water Quality Control Plant—and one of the training program's developers is available to make a presentation on this new program to your members, and answer questions about its ramifications and implementation. For more information please call (650) 322-3070.