

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Regional Water Pollution Prevention Agencies in the Bay Area**

*A New Focus On Preventing Water Pollution:*

*Changing The Everyday Actions of The Bay Area's 6 Million Residents*

Twenty six years ago, the Clean Water Act was passed to establish a legal framework for the restoration of the nation's waters by setting standards for the protection of wildlife, recreation and drinking water sources. The primary target of this legislation was industry--the largest polluter of the early 1970s. And the Clean Water Act has been an immense success; businesses have made significant strides in reducing the amount of pollutants they release into waterways.

Now, however, a new focus has emerged: individuals are the number one source of water pollution in the Bay Area. Studies show that the cumulative impact of such everyday activities as driving, yard work and home improvement activities are the real culprits when it comes to water pollution.

#### ***Joining Forces To Protect Local Waters***

Because of this, two Bay Area associations have joined forces to prevent pollution of our local waters: the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) and the Bay Area Dischargers Association (BADA).

BASMAA's concern is with stormwater runoff pollution: specifically, pollutants that are washed off of the ground and into gutters and storm drains, such as motor oil and pesticides. BADA deals with wastewater pollution: pollutants that enter our waterways via inside (home) drains, such as oven cleaners, home pest pesticides, and paints.

BADA and BASMAA banded together in 1994 to simply share information. Today, these agencies pool resources and collaborate on many projects in order to use public dollars as efficiently as possible. Together they help protect Bay Area waters from becoming polluted--whether from indoor or outdoor sources.

#### ***Experts on Local Water Issues***

BASMAA/BADA members are experts on water pollution and the impact of

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high-priority pollutants on local creeks, the Delta and the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean. The agencies represent seven Bay Area municipal stormwater programs and five wastewater treatment plants. Ultimately, this translates to an alliance of ninety government agencies, including 79 cities and seven counties.

### ***Our Mission***

BASMAA/BADA seeks to educate the Bay Area's 6 million residents about how the cumulative impact of their everyday actions can impact water quality. The agencies also want to teach residents about the simple changes they can make in their daily habits to prevent water pollution. By doing this BASMAA/ BADA hopes to help, protect and restore the health of the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries.

### ***1998 Plan of Action***

BASMAA/BADA public information campaign for 1998 includes:

- **El Nino Water Pollution Alert:**  
Plea to 4 million local drivers to repair leaky vehicles whose pollutants will be washed directly into local creeks, the Delta, and the Bay, harming fish and other wildlife.
- **Spring Cleaning Campaign**  
Walk through of home and yard to demonstrate pollution sources and prevention methods.
- **Summer Awareness Campaign**  
June focus on Bay Area water ways and sources of pollutants from 6 million residents.

#### **BASMAA Agencies:**

- Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
- Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program
- Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
- Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District
- Contra Costa Clean Water Program
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

#### **BADA Agencies:**

- East Bay Dischargers Authority
- Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
- City & County of San Francisco
- City of San Jose
- East Bay Municipal Utility District