https://www.rcwatershed.org/overwatering/

Report Irrigation Runoff or Stormwater Pollution: 800.506.2555

OVERWATERING

Overwatering causes irrigation runoff that may contain pollutants such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, pet waste, yard waste, and sediments which can be hazardous to residents and harmful to our environment. Runoff can also serve as a transport mechanism for other pollutants already on the ground or in the curb gutter. Irrigation runoff entering the storm drain system is an illicit discharge.

BEST PRACTICES

Urban runoff begins when yards and landscaped areas are over-irrigated. Irrigation systems require regular maintenance and visual inspection of the system should be performed to prevent over-spray, leaks, and other problems that result in runoff to storm drains, curbs and gutters.

You can **prevent pollution** by conserving water on your property. Water during cooler times of the day (EVMWD recommends before 6am and after 6pm).

- Adjust sprinklers to stop overspray and runoff.
- Make needed repairs immediately.
- Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.
- Use an irrigation timer to pre-set watering times.
- Use a control nozzle or similar mechanism when watering by hand.
- Switch to a water-wise landscape - native plants need less fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and water.

PROTECT OUR WATERSHED

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, lakes, beaches and ultimately the ocean. Storm water often contains pollutants, including chemicals, trash, and automobile fluids, all of which pollute our watershed and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices (BMP's) as part of your daily clean up and maintenance routine.

ADJUSTING SPRINKLER HEADS