

## La Feria's Stormwater Law

La Feria's law to help clean-up the Arroyo Colorado took effect in 2011.

The intent is to reduce pollution in storm water run-off. The 1972 federal Clean Water Act requires the City to adopt and enforce this ordinance.

The law requires contractors to control erosion, litter and dust at construction sites. It also prohibits everyone from putting anything other than rain into street gutters or storm drains.

Look for signs like the one below throughout the Valley!



Entering  
Entrando

ARROYO COLORADO  
WATERSHED

## What is stormwater run-off?

Stormwater runoff occurs when streets, driveways, parking lots and rooftops prevent rain from soaking into the earth. Stormwater runoff from La Feria flows to the Arroyo Colorado, then to Laguna Madre.

## Why is it a problem?

Stormwater picks-up trash, fertilizers and pesticides from farms and yards, oil and grease from roads, pet waste, grass cuttings and leaves and carries them to the Arroyo Colorado. Then, the water is too dirty for swimming and cannot support fish and other aquatic life.

## Stormwater Pollution Solutions

- Don't pour anything into a street gutter, storm drain, manhole or drainage ditch. These are for rain water only.
- Dispose of paint, used motor oil, brake fluid and antifreeze properly. The City accepts used motor oil at the City Shop during business hours.
- Use yard and garden chemicals sparingly. Follow the instructions on the package and do not apply when rain is expected.
- Do not sweep grass clippings into the street. When leaves and grass get into the Arroyo, they use oxygen to decompose. Fish need oxygen to live. Instead, mulch your garden with the grass clippings or bag it for pick-up with the brush.

(more ideas on the next panel)

RAIN WATER ONLY



DRAINS TO  
ARROYO COLORADO

Coming soon to stormwater inlet near you!

## **More Stormwater Pollution Solutions**

- Do not litter. Dispose of trash properly.
- Repair leaks in your car or truck. Don't let motor oil, anti-freeze or brake fluid drip onto the ground. If you have not had a chance to fix it yet, put something absorbent. Like an old towel, under the car when it is parked.
- Inspect your septic system at least every 3 years and get the tank pumped as often as necessary. A poorly maintained system can cause serious health problems for you and your family and harm the natural environment.
- When you wash your car, park it on the grass. The water can infiltrate back into the soil. Or, take your car to a commercial car wash that recycles water or treats it before disposal.

## **For more information**

- about La Feria's Storm Water Management Plan or the requirements of the new ordinance,
- to schedule a presentation about the City's Stormwater Management Plan or the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan to your classroom, youth group or other association, or
- to volunteer to paint storm drains in your neighborhood and help educate the community about protecting the Arroyo Colorado
- Call Irene Szedlmayer, Director of Planning and Community Development, 797-2261.

**City of La Feria**  
**115 East Commercial Avenue**  
**La Feria, TX 78559-5002**  
**956-797-2261**

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## **Protect the Arroyo Colorado and Laguna Madre**

