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Pollution
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County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS • Public Relations Group

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It's Back to School Time!
The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Reminds Residents to
Teach Kids An Important Lesson: *Put Trash Where it Belongs!*

(LOS ANGELES)—It's that time of year, when students have returned to the classroom—all too often leaving a trail of litter behind them.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works reminds parents and teachers about the importance of educating children to properly dispose of their litter and to set a good example for them. Throwing trash out of a car window or leaving candy, gum and food wrappers on the ground not only makes the neighborhoods we live in look bad, it also harms our environment.

When left on streets and parking lots, litter is carried by rainwater to creeks, rivers and the ocean, where it pollutes these bodies of water, as well as local communities. While gutters and storm drains are only intended to remove rainwater and keep communities from flooding, in many cases, they provide the pathway for untreated water and debris to flow directly into water bodies like the Los Angeles River and the ocean.

“Children tend to follow both the positive and negative examples of the adults in their lives,” said Dean D. Efstathiou, Acting Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. “It is important for us to model positive behaviors for our youth by putting trash in its place, and teaching them the value of keeping their schools and neighborhoods litter-free.”

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works encourages residents to follow these tips to help prevent stormwater pollution:

- ✓ Put litter and extinguished cigarette butts in trash cans, not on the street.
- ✓ Carry a litter-bag in your car or backpack, and remember to use it.
- ✓ Always pick-up after your pet.
- ✓ Recycle beverage containers.
- ✓ Keep your truck bed litter-free, and always tie-down your load.

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- ✓ Apply pesticides or fertilizers sparingly and never before it rains.
- ✓ Recycle used motor oil and oil filters and use re-refined motor oil in your vehicle.

For information about the County's pollution prevention programs, call 1(888)CLEAN LA or log on to www.888CleanLA.com.

About the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' services include road and flood control system maintenance, construction programs, building and safety services, traffic signals and street signs. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works also oversees public education and information programs designed to reach the 10 million residents of the County of Los Angeles with crucial messages about protecting the environment. These programs are part of a comprehensive effort to help residents understand the impact they have on the environment and the steps they can take to protect and improve it.

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