

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD SPONSORS CREEK WEEK CLEANUP ACTIVITIES - IMPROVES LOCAL WATER QUALITY

SACRAMENTO -- Being caught up the creek without a paddle isn't any fun. How about being up the creek with a rusty bicycle, the front half of a pickup truck, or even the nose-cone of a rocket?

These are just a few of the common and not-so-common items pulled from Sacramento area creeks during the annual Creek Week (April 4-13) cleanup events. On Saturday, April 12, volunteers from the State Water Resources Control Board will join many civic-minded individuals, to remove trash and debris from the area's smaller waterways.

"When we have a strong storm, a great deal of litter and other trash gets washed into the creeks," said Celeste Cantu, Executive Director of the SWRCB. "All of this trash travels to the American and Sacramento Rivers, where it kills plants and fish and wreaks havoc with the environment," she added.

A recent Study by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation goes further and points out that, for example, plastic straws and lids from fast-food can travel from far inland, to the middle of the Pacific Ocean where they are eaten by fish, birds, and other creatures, poisoning them by the thousands.

"That's why this event is so important, not just for our community, but for the entire planet," said Alta Tura, president of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

For everyone who helps there will be FREE refreshments at the Lower Arcade Creek site. After the cleanup, volunteers will also receive FREE admission to the Watt Avenue Discovery Museum (formerly called the Science Center), along with FREE lunch and FREE Creek Week T-shirts from the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council (UCC). Prizes are also available for the winning 'gunk and junk' sculpture and scavenger hunt contestants at the Creek Celebration, also at the Discovery Museum.

For more information or to sign up call the Creek Week coordinators at:
482-8377 or 454-4544.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>