



Press Release



To: The Lodi News Sentinel and The Record.
From: Water/Wastewater Superintendent Frank Beeler; and
Watershed Education Coordinator Kathy Grant
Date: May 7, 2007
Re: **Lodi Celebrates May Watershed Awareness Month-**

- Storm Drain Detectives present "Mokelumne River Report Card" - May 14, 2007, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- "Heritage School Watershed Mural Dedication"- May 22, 2007, 2:45-4:00 p.m.
- Water Conservation

Lodi Celebrates May Watershed Awareness Month with Public Education

Throughout the month of May, watershed partnerships, educators, and other community groups are encouraged to promote the importance of watersheds and stewardship at the grassroots and community levels by organizing and participating in watershed awareness activities. To help celebrate Watershed Awareness Month, The City of Lodi, Department of Public Works, is hosting events meant to educate the local community on the importance of our local watersheds. To learn more about the California Watershed Network and other statewide events, see <http://www.watershednetwork.org/>

But, what's a "watershed"? A watershed is the region or area drained by a river or stream, etc: a drainage area. The City of Lodi's rain and run-off falls within two watershed areas, the Mokelumne River to the north/east, and Bear Creek to the south/west, both which eventually flow into the San Joaquin River, which then joins the Sacramento River to form the California Delta.

1. "Don't Dump! Drains to River!"

The river is everywhere! The City of Lodi's Stormwater Program: The responsibility for a clean Mokelumne River starts at home; from our yards, driveways and streets. Stormwater and run-off flows to the river, untreated! The City of Lodi is helping protect its local waterways with its municipal stormwater program which can be seen at: <http://www.lodi.gov/stormwater/index.html>.

Storm Drain Detectives- In cooperation with the City of Lodi, students and other volunteers monitor the Mokelumne River. These sites are near the outfalls which discharge run-off from the streets of Lodi to the river. Each May the students report to the public their water quality testing results. See details below.

Watershed Murals— Funded by a SWRCB grant, in cooperation with LUSD, the City of Lodi oversaw the painting of two educational watershed murals. One mural has been installed at Heritage Primary School with a dedication planned for May 22, 2007; the second will be dedicated in downtown Lodi in late spring or early summer.

2. Water Conservation

The City of Lodi's Water Conservation Program is a *Year-Round* effort to help the Lodi community become aware of the limited water resources which it enjoys. The **year-round** restriction on excessive run-off of water also helps protect our waterways from chemicals and other pollutants the run-off water can contain. **Year-round**; watering landscapes is not allowed on Mondays., Even-numbered addresses can only water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, Odd-numbered addresses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The watering **time-of-day restrictions are also in effect from May 1 through September 30** each year when outdoor watering is **not** allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The dropping groundwater aquifer combined with the less than normal 2006-2007 rainfall averages, are serious reasons for conservation of one of our most precious resource: fresh water. For more information, please call the Water Conservation Office: (209) 333-6829.

Public Events:

1. City of Lodi's Storm Drain Detectives present "This Year's 2006-2007 Mokelumne River Water Quality Report Card", Monday, May 14, 2007- 7:00-8:30 p.m.- Lodi Public Library, 201 W. Locust St., Lodi. SWRCB's Kim Schwab will also present "Streamside Hydromodifications- Why They Matter". All are welcome! For more information: (209) 339-8722.

2. Heritage Primary School Watershed Mural Dedication- The City of Lodi, Public Works, in cooperation with LUSD and funded by a SWRCB grant, worked with Liberty High School and Heritage School students and staff to paint a Mokelumne River Watershed Mural, installed at Heritage School, 509 E. Eden Ave., Lodi. Join local officials for the mural dedication on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 2:45- 4:00 p.m. Come meet the students, teachers and City of Lodi staff which worked on the project. For more information: (209) 339-8722.

Contact - For questions contact Kathy Grant, City of Lodi Watershed Education Coordinator, (209) 339-8722, or kathygrant@sbcglobal.net

CC: Blair King, City Manager
Randy Johl, City Clerk
Richard C. Prima, Jr., Public Works Director
Charles Swimley, Water Services Manager
George M. Bradley, Streets and Drainage Manager
Maria Cervantes, Heritage Primary School Principal
Robert Rivas, Liberty High School Principal
Janine Jacinto, Heritage Primary School
Steve Jordan, Liberty High School
Suzanne Kennedy
Kim Schwab, SWRCB