



# Reducing Nutrient Runoff

How Nurseries Can Help Keep The Rainbow Creek Watershed Clean

**The Rainbow Creek Watershed is home to many nurseries just like yours.** Activities conducted as part of operating a nursery can cause excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, to end up in Rainbow Creek and impact water quality throughout our watershed. Because of this, **nurseries are required to reduce nutrient contributions to protect water quality.**

To help nurseries meet nutrient reduction goals, the County of San Diego has identified several practices to adopt that reduce nutrient contributions and prevent pollution in our watershed. There are four main categories: Irrigation Management, Nutrient Management, Erosion & Runoff Management, and **Personnel Training & Record Keeping** (summarized below). For full details on these particular goals and information on all management goals, please visit [www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/).

## PERSONNEL TRAINING & RECORD KEEPING



**PURPOSE:** Ensure all employees understand your nutrient management goals & practices and document all trainings & practices.

Ensuring that your personnel are trained on how to manage irrigation, nutrients, erosion, and runoff can help prevent pollution in our waterways. Also, keeping records of these trainings as well as other important pollution prevention information will be helpful during routine regulatory inspections. The following practices will assist in meeting your personnel training and record keeping management goals that help protect our watershed.

### PRACTICES:

- ❑ **Create a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or similar document that includes:**
  - All of your stormwater pollution prevention management goals, practices, and associated procedures
  - A site map that identifies all pollutant generating areas, all structural best management practices (SBMPs), and all stormwater conveyances, such as, swales, ditches, or other drainage structures and water bodies
  - Schedule of completed inspections and maintenance actions for all SBMPs
  - Documented training on preventing irrigation runoff and proper nutrient management for all staff which will be irrigating plants and/or handling fertilizers
  - Documented training for all staff on all stormwater pollution prevention management goals and practices established by your facility
- ❑ **Evaluate the effectiveness of your stormwater pollution prevention management practices at least quarterly and update your SWPPP as needed.**
- ❑ **Visit UCCE Agricultural Water Quality Research & Education program's Grower Resources at <http://ucanr.org/agwaterquality> to find information and resources to help develop your SWPPP.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are many resources available on safe handling practices for nutrients like fertilizers. Go to [www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/awq](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/awm/awq) to see a list of available resources.

