



Protect our sea otters

Stem the tide of pollution flowing from land to sea

California sea otters are dying of disease at an alarming rate, and scientists believe rising pollution levels in our coastal waters may be a factor.

Much of the pollution comes from land. Products we use around our homes and farms, along with animal wastes and discharges from factories and sewage treatment plants,

wash directly into the ocean or into storm drains, lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, wetlands and estuaries that drain into the sea. Consequently, the marine environment is continually tainted with chemicals, sediments, excess nutrients, parasites, bacteria and viruses that may be harmful to sea otters and other marine life.

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF



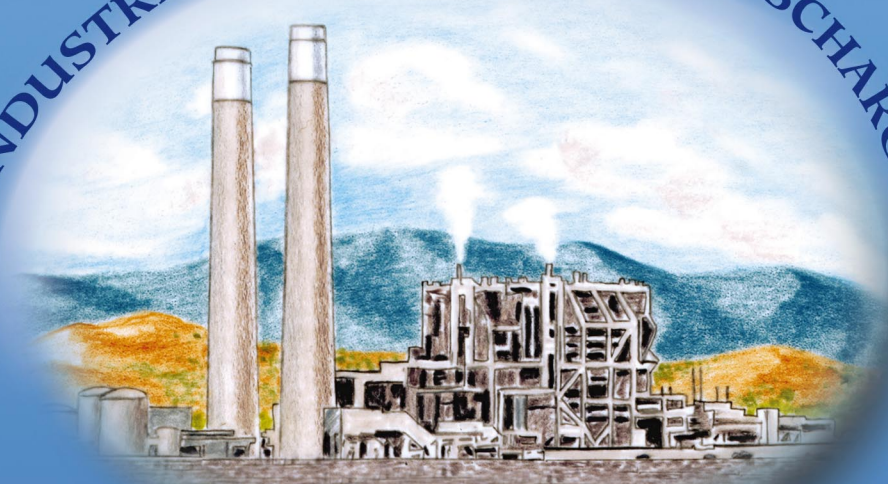
Pesticides, fertilizers, manure and eroded soil from farms and fields run off the land into the sea and connected waters.

URBAN RUNOFF



Paints, solvents, home and garden pesticides, detergents, grease, motor oil, antifreeze and the droppings of dogs, cats and wildlife are washed or dumped down storm drains in our towns and cities and deposited untreated into watersheds.

INDUSTRIAL AND MUNICIPAL DISCHARGE



Outflow pipes from wastewater treatment plants, power plants and factories empty directly into our waterways. Even after treatment, this discharge may still contain heavy metals, bacteria and other contaminants.

What You Can Do

- Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn and garden pesticides and fertilizers.
- Use nontoxic, biodegradable cleaning products.
- Don't pour household chemicals down the drain. Take them to your local hazardous waste collection site.
- Check vehicles frequently for oil, antifreeze and other fluid leaks.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Even indoor kitty litter should be wrapped and discarded in the trash rather than flushed down the toilet.
- Volunteer for a storm-drain stenciling or water quality monitoring program.

For more information, visit www.saveseaotters.org



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