



# SEWER OR STORM DRAIN? DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

The City of Lompoc has separate storm drain and sewer systems. While the differences may seem obvious to some, many people do not know the difference between the two. Do you know the difference?

A sewer system contains underground pipes that transport wastewater, consisting of liquids and solids, from buildings to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant where they are treated prior to being released back into the Miguelito Creek and the Santa Ynez River. The sewer system is a closed system. **Click here** to see the Self-Guided Brochure for a detailed explanation on the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant process.

The City of Lompoc's storm drain system is made up primarily of streets and gutters. Once storm water or other water discharged into the street and gutter reaches an inlet in the curb, it goes into an underground pipe. From the pipe the water is discharged directly, without any treatment, to the East-West Channel, Miguelito Creek or the Santa Ynez River. This water is not clean and any pollutants (oil, grease, antifreeze, paint, chemicals, dirt, and trash, etc.) that have entered the water go straight to the Santa Ynez River and out to the Ocean, without any treatment or pollutant and trash removal.

The difference between the storm drain system and the sewer system is that water entering the sewer system from sinks, showers and toilets is treated before it is released into the Santa Ynez River, while storm water that flows off properties and into the street is not.

Please contact the City of Lompoc, [wwtp\\_info@ci.lompoc.ca.us](mailto:wwtp_info@ci.lompoc.ca.us) or [stormwater@ci.lompoc.ca.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.lompoc.ca.us), if you have questions.

