



# THE RANCH at CYPRESS CREEK

Municipal Utility District #1

## STORMWATER QUALITY INFORMATION AND FACT SHEET

The Ranch at Cypress Creek Municipal Utility District (the “District”) owns and maintains the stormwater facilities within the boundaries of the District. Stormwater facilities collect rainwater from roofs, driveways and other impervious surfaces in areas such as subdivisions, large commercial properties or roadways. The stormwater drains into stormwater facilities where it is infiltrated into an aquifer or allowed to slowly flow out into local streams, lakes, or wetlands. This collection of stormwater facilities within the District is referred to as a municipal separate storm sewer system or MS4 and is regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which requires states to establish and maintain a MS4 program. Texas has established a General Permit for Waste Discharge and provided a means for the TCEQ to delegate MS4 authorizations to cities, counties, universities, MUDs, etc. It is a violation of the Clean Water Act for entities designated as MS4s to discharge to the waters of the US without a permit. The TCEQ authorizes and manages the District’s regulatory framework for the discharge permit program including required inspections, yearly reporting and records management.

### **Stormwater Pollution:**

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, or river. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people. Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitats. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can’t exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels. Debris (plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, etc.) washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds. Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health.

### **Common Culprits:**

- Roads are a source of pollution. Oils, grease, construction dirt, trash & cigarette butts wash off roads when it rains.
- Excess fertilizers wash off lawns and gardens when it rains & flows into surface water.
- Things put into storm drains and on the street can end up in our rivers, canals and coastal waters

### **What can we do:**

What are some simple steps residents can take to help control stormwater pollution? Keeping pollutants out of stormwater run-off is less expensive than installing stormwater treatment facilities. There are several ways you can prevent pollution from entering stormwater:

- Leave grass clippings on your lawn (mulch).
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and gutters to keep debris out of storm sewers.

- Use fertilizers and pesticides in recommended amounts. Consider using organic alternatives.
- Direct downspouts to lawns or gardens.
- Wash vehicles on your lawn or at a car wash.
- Clean up pet waste.
- Dispose of hazardous materials properly.
- Practice dry clean-up methods – For instance, instead of hosing down your driveway or sidewalk, use a broom to sweep up waste.
- Recycle used engine oil.

For more information about stormwater and what you can do to help, please go to the District's stormwater webpage at: <https://www.ranchatcc.org/stormwater/> or contact the District's Stormwater Committee at [troy.fielding@ranchatcc.org](mailto:troy.fielding@ranchatcc.org) or [iramirez@ranchatcc.org](mailto:iramirez@ranchatcc.org) (direct link to contact Stormwater Committee is also available on the website.)