

PROTECT THE FAMOSA SLOUGH



Preventing runoff pollution is critical to protecting wetlands like Famosa Slough. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, everything that flows into storm drains is not treated before flowing into our waterways. Runoff pollution harms our rivers, bays, wetlands and the ocean, so it's up to us to help our waterways thrive.

WHAT IS THE FAMOSA SLOUGH?

Famosa Slough is a 37-acre wetland and marine protected area (MPA) in the City of San Diego. It's an important habitat for diverse species - including the cooper's hawk, greater yellow legs waterfowl and longjaw mudsucker fish - and one of the last remaining wetlands in the City of San Diego.

MPAs are protected areas of oceans, lakes or estuaries that preserve sensitive wildlife and habitats. By protecting entire ecosystems rather than focusing on a single species, MPAs are powerful tools for conserving ocean biodiversity and protecting cultural resources, while allowing recreation and research to occur.

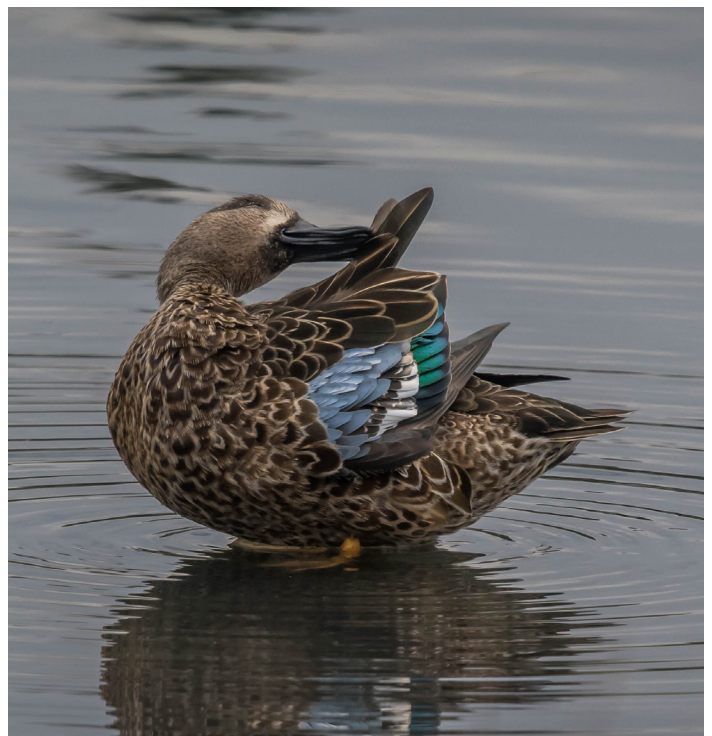
WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

Wetlands provide numerous benefits for people, fish and wildlife. They protect and improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife (especially migrating and local birds) and prevent flooding by holding in water. They also store carbon, transfer nutrients and support high biodiversity! It is critical to protect wetlands so we can continue to receive their ecological benefits.

POLLUTION IN FAMOSA SLOUGH

Famosa Slough has been impacted by eutrophication. That's when excessive nutrients cause dense and rapid algae growth on the surface of a waterway, which blocks sunlight from getting through. This leads to a severe lack of oxygen that can kill aquatic organisms like fish and plants. Due to issues with eutrophication, Famosa Slough was added to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impacted waterways.

The most common source of nutrient pollution is over-irrigation leading to runoff of fertilizers. When residents use fertilizers and give their yards more water than it needs, it can lead to the nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizers flowing untreated into storm drains and eventually local waterways, including the Famosa Slough. Fortunately, due to swift action by the City of San Diego, all nutrient runoff during dry weather has been prevented from entering the Famosa Slough.



WHAT IS THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO DOING TO HELP?

To reach these regulatory goals, address eutrophication in Famosa Slough and follow through on their commitment with the San Diego Water Board to develop and implement a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Alternative, the City of San Diego is doing the following:

- **Famosa Slough Drainage Area Stormwater Code Enforcement Patrols:** The City of San Diego conducts weekly proactive patrols to detect and eliminate all illegal discharges to the storm drain system within the Famosa Slough drainage area.
- **Targeted Outreach Campaign:** The City has implemented a targeted public outreach campaign to inform local residents and businesses of the ecological importance of the Famosa Slough as well as highlight prohibited discharges and consequences of violating the municipal code.
- **Famosa Slough Monitoring Program:** The data collected is used to determine how much progress has been made to reach monitoring goals and when macroalgae (seaweed) harvesting should occur.

WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT THE FAMOSA SLOUGH

- Sweep up leaves and clippings around your yard and place them in a covered collection bin.
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash or over a landscaped area.
- Pick up litter and place it in covered trash cans.
- Decrease the use of fertilizers.
- Adjust sprinklers to only water landscaping instead of hard surfaces including sidewalks or the street.
- Pick up after your dog and place waste in a closed trash bin.
- Fix broken sprinkler systems immediately.
- Only give your lawn the amount of water it needs.



Immediately report pollutant discharges and dry weather runoff near the Famosa Slough. To report stormwater pollution – such as over-irrigation, landscape waste, clogged storm drains or flooded streets – do it through the City’s Get It Done app or call 619-527-7500. Thank you for doing your part to protect the Famosa Slough!