



# 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 phosphorous, 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. Summarized here are four main categories of management goals and associated practices that will help reduce nutrient contributions. Further details on these practices, as well as additional practices for each goal, can be found in the **County's Rainbow Creek Nutrient Reduction and Management Plan (NRMP)** available at [www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/).

## IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT



1

**PURPOSE:** Increase the efficiency of your irrigation to prevent runoff.

**GOALS:** Improve the uniformity and efficiency of your system, manage growing areas to reduce watering on non-growing areas, use the correct rate & schedule for your plant type(s), and properly maintain your system.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT



2

**PURPOSE:** Prevent fertilizers from entering waterways.

**GOALS:** Determine the type of fertilizer needed (if any) based on existing irrigation water, soil conditions, & plant needs; properly store handle, & apply fertilizers; and prevent spills at all times.

## EROSION & RUNOFF MANAGEMENT



3

**PURPOSE:** Prevent erosion & reduce runoff from leaving your property.

**GOALS:** Improve soil infiltration & water holding capacity, keep sediment & runoff on your property, properly manage sloped areas, properly design & manage entry/exit points & internal roadways, collect excess irrigation & stormwater, and properly manage greenhouse roof runoff.

## TRAINING & RECORD KEEPING



4

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

**GOALS:** Provide training for staff responsible for irrigation and/or handling of fertilizers, & training for all staff on your runoff management goals. Create a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to document these trainings & practices.

