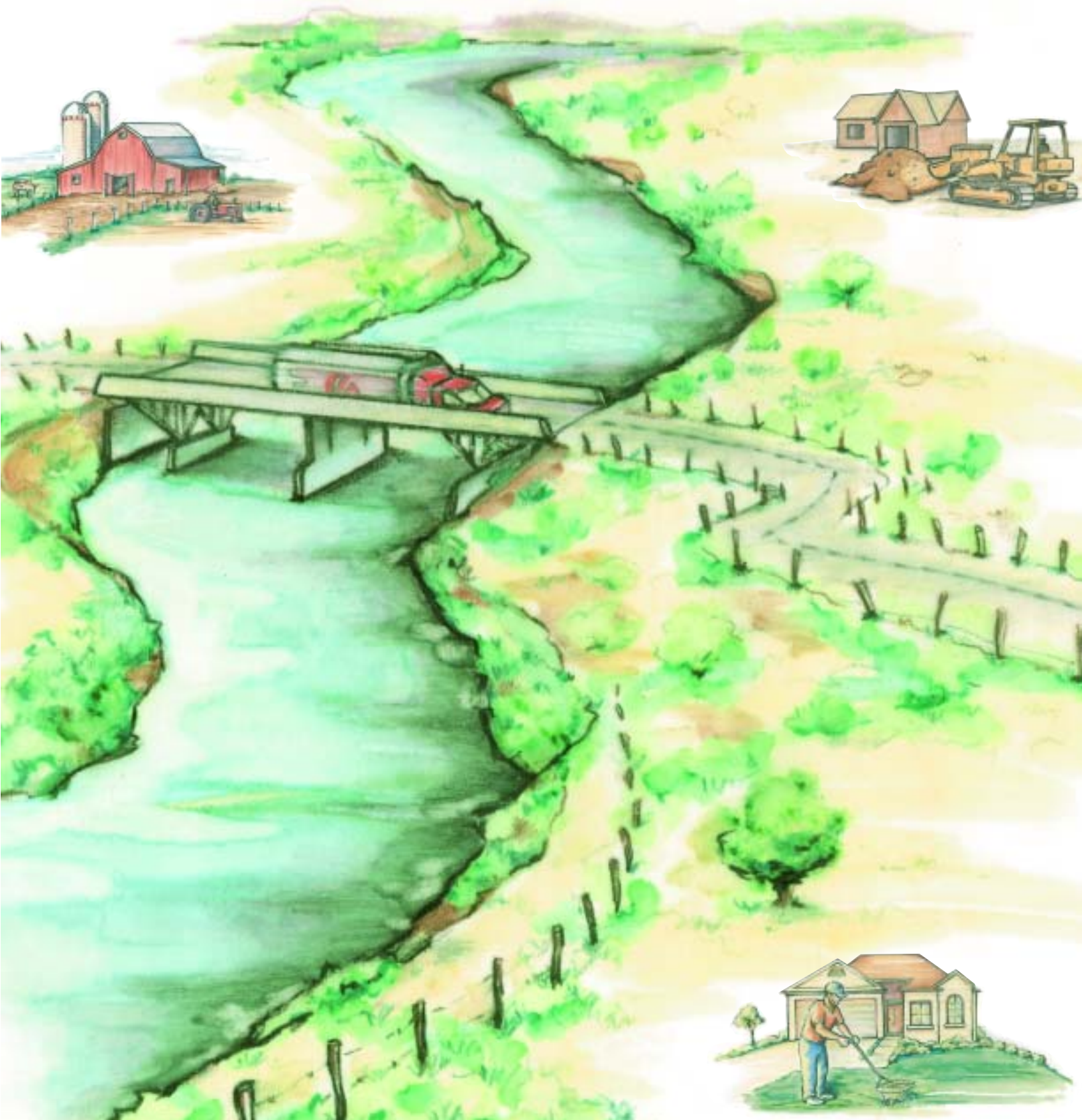


# NONPOINT-SOURCE POLLUTION

TIPS FROM THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY



# NONPOINT-SOURCE POLLUTION

**C**lean water is important to everyone. We drink it, use it for recreation, and run our industries with it. The Lower Colorado River Authority is committed to keeping the Highland Lakes, Colorado River and its tributaries healthy. A major threat to the health of the waterways comes from nonpoint-source (NPS) pollution.

## What is nonpoint-source pollution?

Nonpoint-source pollution comes from everywhere, as it is washed off the land into our lakes and the river. Rainfall runoff carries soil, pesticides and other residues of everyday human activity into the water. The effect is a deluge of dirt, trash and toxics that produce more water pollution than all the sewage and industrial plants in the nation.

## How does NPS pollution affect our waterways?

Nonpoint-source pollution can seriously affect water quality. Sediment, pesticides, debris and oil can enter our waterways, reducing the vital oxygen in the water and disrupting habitat for the plants and animals that make the river their home. In addition, these pollutants can carry diseases that cause human health problems.

## Nonpoint-source pollution can come from:

- Improper disposal of chemicals, oils, and other waste.
- Litter and trash.
- Overgrazing and certain cultivation practices that can increase soil erosion and can carry pesticides, fertilizers and animal wastes into our waterways.
- Earth disturbances such as land development, mining and highway construction.

*We are all part of the problem.*

*We can all be part of the solution.*

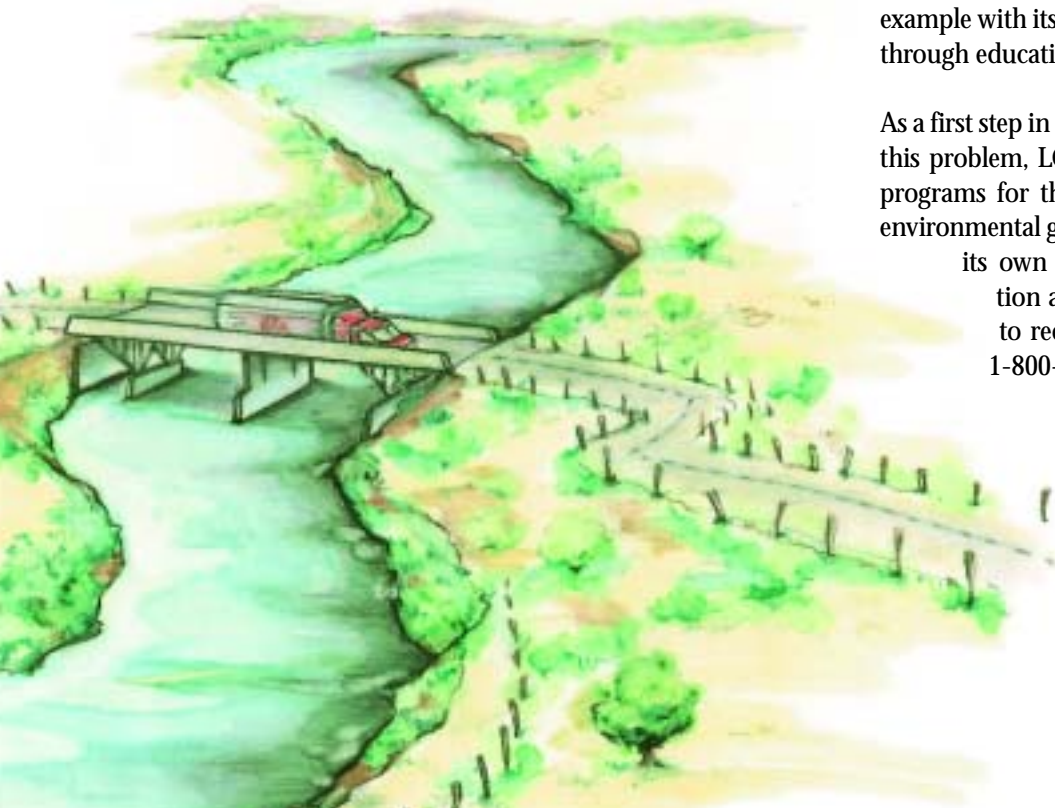
*Prevention is the key to reducing nonpoint-source pollution.*

## What is LCRA doing to control nonpoint-source pollution?

LCRA is committed to addressing this problem by being an example with its own projects and preventing it in the future through education.

As a first step in making everyone aware of the seriousness of this problem, LCRA is engaged in a variety of educational programs for the general public, government officials, environmental groups, public school systems and its own employees. For more information about the educational programs or to request a speaker on this subject, call 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 3281.

LCRA properties are being used as demonstration projects to show how to control nonpoint-source pollution through soil and water conservation practices.



## Here's what you can do to help:



### Home and Garden

Keep pet wastes, leaves and debris out of gutters and storm drains. Divert runoff from your roof to a well-vegetated area rather than on pavement.

Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly, or use non-toxic products in your gardening. Water fertilizers with a hose and don't apply before a rain.

Control soil erosion by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze, paints and other hazardous materials properly. Never dump substances down a storm drain, onto the soil, or into a waterway.

Don't rake clippings into the gutter; they can get into a waterway and provide nutrients for aquatic plants. The plants then become overgrown, causing fish and other water life to suffer.

Use nontoxic alternatives for home-cleaning chemicals.



### Land Developers and Contractors

Before clearing a site, install sediment controls such as silt fences or brush berms. Do not remove the controls until after the site has been permanently stabilized by vegetation.

- Minimize disturbance of trees and vegetation. It is especially important to retain natural vegetation around creeks and drainage areas.
- Correct erosion problems immediately.
- Maintain vegetative buffer zones.
- Do not channel concentrated runoff flows into natural creeks or canyons.
- Train your employees to dispose of trash and debris properly. Place construction debris in dumpsters for safe disposal.
- Practice good housekeeping. Control toxins from sites by developing and following a pollution-prevention plan.



### Agriculture

- Keep livestock out of streams. Their wastes can pollute the water, and their movements erode the banks and disrupt the habitat for vital aquatic life.
- Leave crop residues in the field to hold and fertilize the soil.
- Apply chemicals at the proper rate and when water conditions are right for application. Follow all label directions.
- Don't remove vegetation near creeks. These plants and grasses hold the soil of the bank and filter out many pollutants.
- Make certain that workers on your farm or ranch know the proper procedures for use and disposal of waste materials and leftover chemicals.

## **ABOUT LCRA**

LCRA is a conservation and reclamation district created by the Texas Legislature in 1934 to provide energy, water and community services to the people of Texas. LCRA cannot levy taxes, but gets its income to fund its operations from the sale of electricity, water and other services.

LCRA sells wholesale electricity to city-owned utilities and cooperatives that serve more than 1 million people in Texas. LCRA also sells stored water; develops and operates water and wastewater utilities; manages the lower Colorado River; protects water quality; owns and operates parks; promotes conservation of soil, water and energy; and offers economic and community development assistance to rural communities.



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