



# KEEP THE RIO GRANDE!

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that flows over the land instead of seeping into the ground. This runoff flows into the Rio Grande.

## What is polluted runoff?

Runoff can pick up and carry trash, debris and many substances that pollute water. Some substances in the runoff — such as pesticides, fertilizers, oil and soap, dirt, pet waste, grass clippings and leaves — are the result of human carelessness and can harm the Rio Grande.

## What is the Mid Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team?

The Stormwater Quality Team was formed to comply with federal Environmental Protection Agency permits. The Team's goal is also to educate individuals and businesses about how to reduce stormwater pollution by keeping trash and other pollution out of our stormwater system. The Team includes:

- Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA)
- Bernalillo County
- City of Albuquerque
- Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (SSCAFCA)
- University of New Mexico

## Where can I learn more?

Visit our website at

[www.keeptheriogrand.org](http://www.keeptheriogrand.org)

## THE MID RIO GRANDE STORMWATER SYSTEM How stormwater runoff finds its way to the Rio Grande

Stormwater that does not seep into the ground drains directly into the river through a system of pipes, channels and arroyos.



## Things YOU Can Do to Keep the Rio Grand!

- 1 Never put anything into a storm drain.
- 2 Pick up after your pets and dispose of pet waste by wrapping it and placing it in the garbage.
- 3 Don't litter...not even cigarette butts. They are not biodegradable.
- 4 Wash your cars on the grass or at a carwash so the dirty soapy water doesn't flow into nearby storm drains.
- 5 Fix your cars so they do not leak oil and other fluids.
- 6 Do not overfertilize or overwater your lawn. And don't apply fertilizers or pesticides before a heavy rain. If fertilizer falls onto driveways or sidewalks, sweep it up instead of hosing it away.
- 7 Mulch leaves and grass clippings to keep them out of the gutter. Don't place them in the street.
- 8 Keep lawn and household chemicals sealed tightly and in a place where rain cannot reach them.
- 9 Dispose of old or unwanted chemicals at household hazardous waste collection sites or events.
- 10 Turn your gutter downspouts away from hard surfaces (toward bushes, grass or trees) and fill bare spots in your yard to avoid erosion.
- 11 Do not use a hose to clean off hard surfaces.