Channel 10 Interview on Chollas Creek Diazinon TMDL – June 7, 2002

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
Significant pollution problems exist in Chollas Creek. There is trash, which is clearly visible. And there is the more insidious problem of pollutants in the water that cannot be seen such as bacteria, household pesticides, and heavy metals that drain off our neighborhood streets and lawns. This toxic runoff kills aquatic organisms in the creek which are important food sources for fish, birds and other wildlife. And because Chollas Creek flows directly to San Diego Bay, these pollutants also impact wildlife in San Diego Bay.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM?
The source of these pollutants is you and me; our households, yards, shopping centers, automobiles, and freeways.

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD DOING TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM?
On June 12, the Regional Board will consider adoption of a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, for the household pesticide, diazinon in the Chollas Creek watershed. TMDL is just a fancy name for an **action plan** that will reduce diazinon levels in the creek. We are also currently developing an action plan to reduce heavy metals such as copper, lead, and zinc in Chollas Creek. (The pesticide action plan will direct the Cities of San Diego, Lemon Grove and La Mesa to lead the diazinon reduction efforts. One way the cities will reduce diazinon is by educating the public about the use of less toxic alternatives.)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
We are all part of the problem and we must all be part of the solution. Consider the use of "less toxic alternatives" to chemical pesticides in and around your home. If you must use pesticides, use them sparingly according to the label, and never apply them before a storm or before irrigating your lawn. Dispose of unwanted pesticides properly.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES?
On the Internet, go to **www.pesticides.org** or **www.pesticidesinfo.org**. Click on "less toxic alternatives". Then click on the target pest (e.g., ants, cockroaches, etc.).