



## Memorandum of Understanding LA Waterkeeper Community Water Watch Certified Samplers

### Description

**Community Water Watch (CWW)** is a program run by Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) to engage volunteers from throughout the Los Angeles region, particularly in areas heavily impacted by industrial pollution (e.g., Downtown and South LA, Ports of LA and Long Beach, Sun Valley, and the San Gabriel Valley) in our efforts to monitor and abate contamination of our inland and coastal waters. CWW volunteers are asked to document activities of industrial facilities (including photographing runoff), and collecting water samples during rain events. Your participation as a Certified Sampler is crucial to help LAW better understand the health of waterways throughout the region and further our advocacy efforts aimed at reducing ongoing pollution.

Through CWW, LAW is striving to address industrial stormwater pollution, which is one of the most pervasive and challenging sources of contamination to Los Angeles' waterways. There are currently more than 2,000 industrial facilities *permitted* under the state's Industrial General Permit (IGP) governing stormwater discharges, including scrapyards, concrete batch plants, fabricated metals manufacturing, recycling facilities, and auto dismantlers. There are likely thousands more *unpermitted* industrial facilities! If not operated properly, such facilities can discharge a wide array of toxins to our waterways and communities, particularly during storm events, ranging from metals such as lead, zinc, copper, and iron to other pollutants such as oil and grease, pathogens, and sediment. Collectively, these facilities can and often do have devastating impacts on our aquatic ecosystems and threaten public health.

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### Roles and Responsibilities

#### **LA Waterkeeper will...**

- Provide monthly trainings to volunteers on proper water quality sampling techniques
- Offer guidance surrounding the most egregious polluters
- Support water quality sampling efforts by providing supplies and paying for lab fees
- Use the data collected in our advocacy and possible litigation
- Make data collected available to the public and our volunteers

#### **CWW Certified Samplers will...**

- Attend at least one full-length LAW-lead training
- Identify and investigate potential polluters in their communities by:
  - Sending photos of practices at industrial facilities that may be contributing to polluted stormwater runoff
  - Sampling stormwater runoff from industrial facilities during rain events, which may occur at any point during the day or night
- Where possible, support LAW's advocacy to address industrial pollution in their communities
- Commit to acting safely and respecting private property

## **For More Information**

Please direct questions and applications to Melissa at [melissavm@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:melissavm@lawaterkeeper.org). We will accept applications on a rolling basis, but we will review new applications at the end of each month. Thank you for your interest in participating!

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## **Sign Up**

Volunteers must be over 18 years old and willing to join a Community Water Watch team. Please select which team you'd like to join:

- Sun Valley Team
- DTLA/South LA Team
- Port Communities Team
- San Gabriel Valley Team

**Full Name:**

**Home City:**

**Phone Number:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Why are you interested in becoming a Community Water Watch Certified Sampler?**

**Could you describe what you see in your community when it rains? Do you notice flooding, polluted waters, etc.?**

**Would you be willing to: 1) attend an introductory training on October 22, and other trainings as needed; 2) collect water samples during storms; and 3) take pictures of runoff in your neighborhood on a regular basis? Could you describe your availability from October 2016-May 2017?**

**Signature of applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_