

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center for Urban Runoff and Watershed Research  
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## VOLUNTEER LETTER

**THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO CLEAN THE LAKE THAN WITH A NET:** Trash is not the only pollutant that bedevils our downtown natural resource. Oil, soap, paint and (as shown here) concrete can have serious water quality impacts, and do not belong in public waters.



So, if you see a scene like that on the right, call the Oakland City storm drain inspector at 238-6544. While such incidents may seem small, they add up. With a 7 square mile watershed, our Lake is subject to many such assaults and each one degrades water quality more and more.

And, if the pollutant is concrete, does it coat the inside of storm drains, reducing their capacity to prevent a flood?

As for silt, it slowly builds up on the bottom, making the Lake ever more shallow. Eventually, dredging is needed; and that costs many millions of tax payer dollars.

So, stop it on the streets, which are the source of our water pollution.

**EARTH EXPO/DAY:** Join us for Earth Expo on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 2 at City Hall Plaza where the theme will be “The Sustainable Urban Environment.” Join us on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21st from 9 – noon at Lake Merritt where the theme will be “Eliminating litter from our shorelines.” We will also be giving two of our aeration fountains a good cleaning and painting.

### SUMMARY FOR MARCH:

- 0.40 inches of rain (limited volume but intense flows mobilized trash)
  - 4,780 pounds of trash
    - 260 people
      - 195 bags of trash.
  - Clean ups were conducted on 22 out of 31 days.

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