

# CITY OF NORCO

## MANURE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

### HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

On May 7, 2008, the Norco City Council adopted Ordinance No. 889 entitled “Adoption of Best Manure Management Practices Ordinance for Manure Handling, Collection and Storage and Participation in the City’s Manure Collection Service”. The ordinance will add Chapter 6.45, entitled “City of Norco Manure Management and Disposal”, to the Norco Municipal Code.

For most residents who keep livestock within the City, this ordinance will not change their day to day operations. However, for those keepers of livestock within the City who in the past have elected to not clean up or have manure removed from their property, they will now be required to do so.

Norco’s animal keeping lifestyle is somewhat unique to Southern California cities. We are proud of our Horsetown USA identity and committed to preserving our animal-keeping lifestyle. However, with increased regional, state and federal regulations on water quality the demand to keep pollutants out of storm systems is a necessity.

#### **Background:**

The City of Norco is one of 13 local governments (co-permittees) in Riverside County that are part of Order No. 2002-0011, NPDES Permit No. CAS618033 (Permit). In 2005, the Santa Ana Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) initiated an auditing process to determine the permittee’s compliance with the Permit and to evaluate the current implementation status of the permittee’s Storm Water Management Plan. In August of 2006, the Board conducted a two-day evaluation of the City of Norco’s storm water program. As a result of this audit, on February 23, 2007, the City received a Notice of Violation (NOV) from the Board which identified permit violations, program deficiencies, as well as positive attributes. While the NOV addressed all aspects of the Permit, of importance it noted three violations specific to horse manure.

On October 1, 2007, the City received Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R8-2007-0056, from the Board, which included an assessment of \$78,494 for violations to the City’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. While the City did have the option to a hearing and appeal of the Complaint, the City elected to pay the assessment. In doing so, the City avoided a potential significant increase in the assessment if it was to lose the appeal and was able to have half of the assessment put towards a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) proposed within the City. The City also agreed to work with the Board improving on and implementing the deficiencies noted in the NOV and ACL of which four different sections listed manure issues/violations.

To date, the City has spent a considerable amount of time and energy to address all the deficiencies and violations noted in the NOV and ACL. Noteworthy to this item is that on June 6, 2007, the Council approved a “Manure Management Strategy” which outlines goals and objectives to implement manure best management practices (BMPs) and maintain relatively affordable service costs to residents. Goal 1A is to prepare a “Manure Collection” ordinance. While it may appear that the NOV and ACL were the catalysts for the manure ordinance, it should be clearly understood that the City has been discussing and working on such an ordinance for nearly 10 years. The NOV and ACL were the “final straw” in realizing the immediate need for such an ordinance in order to protect and ensure for years to come our “animal friendly” lifestyle which we promote and enjoy.

The complete ordinance can be viewed on the City’s website at [www.ci.norco.ca.us](http://www.ci.norco.ca.us) by clicking on “Manure Management” under Departments/Public Works. Please look for informational flyers in future water billings. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact staff (951.270.5607) at City Hall.