

Bear Creek Watershed Association

Approved: October 9, 2013

Policy 18 Draft – Illegal Material Dumping as a Pollutant in
Bear Creek Watershed



Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Bear Creek Watershed Association (Association) is established in the Bear Creek Watershed State Control Regulation (Regulation #74, 5 CCR 1002-74) (Control Regulation). The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission recognizes the Association as a designated Water Quality Management Agency under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan. The Association is responsible for identifying pollutant sources and recommending strategies to help mitigate these pollutants.

Beginning July 1, 2013, Colorado Senate Bill 12-133 bans landfill disposal of certain electronic wastes from households. It became a violation of the solid waste regulations for residents of Colorado to dispose of electronic waste in their trash. Colorado hazardous waste regulations for industry, businesses, and government agencies prohibit dispose of any electronic waste that exhibits one or more characteristics of hazardous waste in municipal solid waste landfills. These types of materials need to be properly recycled. However, the Association has noted an increase in the illegal dumping of electronic wastes, which have the potential to degrade water and environmental quality.

Dumping, including but not limited to, construction waste, yard waste, organic material (e.g., pine needles) or other plant materials into waterways within the watershed can have a number affects on environmental or water quality:

- Trap sediments and increase streambed embeddedness.
- Create blocked streambeds, increasing the risk of flooding.
- Yard waste can spread invasive species.
- Decomposing vegetation can reduce the oxygen in streams for fish and aquatic life.
- Increase nutrient loads.
- Increase natural bacteria growth (e.g., blue-green algae).
- Used asphalt from construction waste can impair water quality.
- Other construction waste can potentially include a wide variety of pollutants.

Membership Policies

1. The Association considers the disposal of, including but not limited to, construction waste, yard waste, organic material (e.g., pine needles) or other plant materials into waterways within the watershed as nonpoint source pollution. This form of waste disposal can harm water quality and is not an acceptable practice in the watershed. Observed incidents of this disposal practice should be reported to appropriate authorizes (e.g., county government, municipal programs and state water quality control division).
2. The Association considers the disposal of hazardous household waste and “certain electronic wastes” as point source pollution. This form of waste disposal will harm water

quality and is an illegal practice in the watershed. Observed incidents of this disposal practice should be reported immediately to appropriate authorizes (e.g., county government, municipal programs, state water quality control division, or Association).