

# HOW TO REPORT POLLUTION OR HARMED WILDLIFE AT AQUATIC PARK

These recommendations aim at getting quick action when needed, as well as creating useful long-term records and getting procedural or political changes if needed.

If you have different experiences and recommendations, please email [f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com). Things change and people have different experiences. This handout remains a work in progress – *Friends of Aquatic Park*.

## URGENT POLLUTION REPORTS

- If you smell gas or oil or see something dangerous, call Berkeley Police or Fire -- 911 if an emergency.
- For a water-main break, call EBMUD 1-866-403-2683 and press 1 for EBMUD Emergency Dispatch.
- For sewer overflow, toxic spill, or dumping in progress, call Public Works emergency, (510) 981-6620. Good idea to call them about water-main breaks after you call EBMUD.

## NON-EMERGENCY POLLUTION REPORTS

Simplest is to call 311 during business. But this has limits.

- Better and almost as easy: Take a GPS'd cell-phone photo and email it to [customerservice@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:customerservice@cityofberkeley.info) (same people as 311). Use a clear subject line and include a short, clear description of location so someone can find it without street address (rare in Aquatic Park). Try to describe the spot with compass directions, landmarks such as buildings, estimated distances, etc. – e.g. “on the west shore about 300 feet north of the rowers’ boathouse.” Ask for a response with case number and where it was referred.
- Berkeley has an online form for illegal dumping: <https://berkeleyca.gov/city-services/report-pay/report-issues/report-illegal-dumping>.
- Much appreciated if you also cc Friends of Five Creeks ([f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com)) or Friends of Aquatic Park if you are in the group. Please also let us know about any response or follow-up.
- Good idea to cc [MSkramstad@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:MSkramstad@cityofberkeley.info) (Mary Skramstad, Berkeley's stormwater coordinator) and [RoTorres@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:RoTorres@cityofberkeley.info) (Ron Torres, Berkeley's manager of environmental health). Responsibilities are divided and unclear, but these folks should be kept aware of what is going on. Not a bad idea to cc the current council member, Terry Taplin, [ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info).
- It's good to report serious pollution to San Francisco Baykeeper using their [online form](#).

## DEAD OR DYING WILDLIFE, ILLEGAL FISHING

If you see what seems to be illegal fishing, fishers discarding undersized fish, or behavior that harasses wildlife, call the 24-hour CalTIP line, 1-888-334-CalTIP. GPS'd photos help!

In nature, animals die. But if you see several sick or dead animals, or even one that seems concerning, please fill out the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Mortality Report form here:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/Mortality-Report>. **Take GPS'd photos if you can.**

If you see dead or dying fish, especially sharks or rays, please email Dr. Mark Okihiro, and Shark Stewards, [seasteward@gmail.com](mailto:seasteward@gmail.com). Dr. Okihiro, a fish pathologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, very much wants fresh carcasses (intact, not smelly, gills still pink). If possible, put this on ice (**not frozen**), and contact him, Shark Stewards, or [f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com).