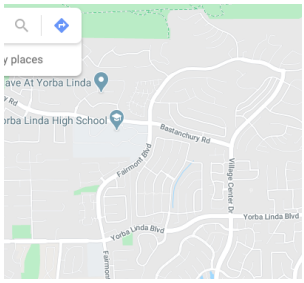
Program Outline

What is the Trash Amendment Action Plan? Introduction

Action 1: Get to Know Your Neighborhood
Build background knowledge



Make a map of your neighborhood and observe the trash and litter in the area.

Action 2: Find Your Neighborhood Storm Drains
Build background knowledge

Use your map to label the locations of storm drains and BMPs in your neighborhood.

Action 3: Locate Your Litter
Define the problem

Take a walk to locate litter hotspots and give them a litter grade.

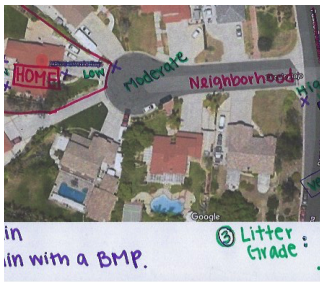
Action 4: Just Do It! Create a Catchy Slogan
Brainstorm and plan solutions

Start a campaign in your neighborhood by first coming up with a slogan.

Action 5: Design Neighborhood BMPs
Brainstorm, plan, design, create & test

Follow-through with your campaign BMP to reduce litter in your neighborhood.

Action 6: Evaluate Your BMP
Analyze and reflect



Go outside and give your hot spots a final grade. Did they get a better grade after doing your BMP?

Optional: Redesign Your BMP
Improve & test

Make changes to your BMP to improve litter-fighting strategies in your neighborhood.

Optional: From Home to School
Apply knowledge

Do all or some of Actions 3-6 to apply your litter reduction expertise to the school campus.

End-of-program Presentation. Communicate. Work one on one with BCK Programs staff to organize a student presentation to school and/or city officials.

What is the TrAAP Program?

TrAAP stands for Trash Amendment Action Plan. TrAAP is a six lesson authentic learning program where students, working with the local government, collect and report data about trash accumulation in their neighborhoods and/or their school campus. This data is needed by municipalities to help comply with amendments to state water regulations. Additionally, students take on the role as problem solvers as they identify and implement best practices to monitor and reduce litter in their neighborhoods or on their school campus.

Impacts of Trash in Waterways

The State of California defines trash as *all improperly discarded solid materials from **any** production*. Other definitions refer to trash as "man-made" litter. No matter how it is defined, trash on the ground blows or washes into storm drains or gutters and eventually makes its way into our waterways as it travels to lakes, bays, estuaries or the ocean.

The most common types of this migrating trash are cigarette butts, food and drink containers and plastic bags. The occurrence of trash in our local waters is harmful to marine wildlife, shorebirds and the health of all citizens. It also impacts the use and enjoyment of our beaches and lakes.

A Plan to Get Rid of Trash

In order to combat this problem, California's State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted new requirements to their existing regulations regarding trash in and around state waters. These new requirements are known as the "Trash Amendments."

The simple stated objective of these amendments is: *Trash shall not be present in ocean waters, along shorelines or adjacent areas in amounts that adversely affect beneficial uses or cause nuisance.*

What are the Trash Amendments?

In 2015, the State Water Board adopted state-wide provisions to two of their guiding regulatory efforts used to protect California's water quality. These regulatory plans are the Ocean Waters of California Plan and the Inland Surface Waters Plan. Together these two plans provide water quality and quantity guidance for the entire state. The provisions adopted in 2015 to both plans were called the "Trash Amendments" because the aim was to drastically reduce trash entering regional waterways through stormwater runoff from city streets, neighborhoods and industrial areas.

By 2017, these amendments received greater focus and municipalities in charge of mitigating this polluted runoff were tasked with more stringent monitoring and reporting requirements. They were also directed to enhance their best management practices to capture trash before it enters the storm drains in the first place.

Students in Action

The TrAAP program is a tool that cities can use to help with their monitoring and reporting duties. Not only will students collect and share necessary data from schools around the state, but their solutions to capture trash at the source will assist the city's development of required best management practices.