

Eco-Tip 4-30-17

Oil Recycling and Landscape Art: Avoid the Daily Spill

By David Goldstein, Ventura County Public Works Agency, IWMD

The recently announced plan to decommission oil platform Holly off the nearby coast will remove the source of a 120,000 gallon spill which occurred two years ago. However, a slow motion oil spill from vehicle leaks and improper disposal may be spilling many times that amount every year.

The website of the California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle), using 1998 data, calculates 56 million gallons leaks out of engines or is burned in engines annually in our state, along with another 20 million gallons “unaccounted for” each year. Many of these improperly managed gallons may be contaminating our environment.

If a friend, or a “shade tree mechanic” offers to save you some money by doing your next oil change, ask where the oil will be disposed. Insist it must be dropped-off at a certified oil collection center. CalRecycle’s website also suggests consumers reduce oil disposal problems by changing oil no more frequently than recommended in their car’s owner’s manual.

Karen Kitchel, a Ventura-based landscape artist whose work is exhibited in museums throughout the country, is raising awareness of these issues through use of a unique medium. Her asphalt emulsion paint is derived in part from oil she has collected in the actual landscapes she depicts. Using this material is intended to “add urgency and depth” to the art, she said.

On the net:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/usedoil/Public/default.htm>

www.karenkitchel.com