

> CLEAN RIVERS

Study quality of drain water, too

TO add my two cents to the discussion about cleaning up our rivers, may I suggest that we also look into the quality of drain water that flows into the main rivers?

Drain water could also be treated like sewage. For example, residents should be encouraged to wash their cars at proper car wash outlets — where the dirty water can be processed — instead of washing them at home.

The United States Department of Ecology even has regulations on the quality of storm water that flows into rivers after rainstorms.

I concur with Mohd Noorani's observation on polluted rivers in "Zurich

can tell us how it's done" (NST, April 7), that lakes and rivers in Zurich and the rest of Switzerland are mind-bogglingly clean.

That reminded me of a podcast published by Swiss Radio International which explains why the lakes in Switzerland are so clean.

The podcast explains that one of the reasons is the continuous reduction of phosphate in detergents over more than a decade. This has led to cleaner discharges into the lakes. You can listen to the podcast at <http://sni.purl.com/swisswater>.

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