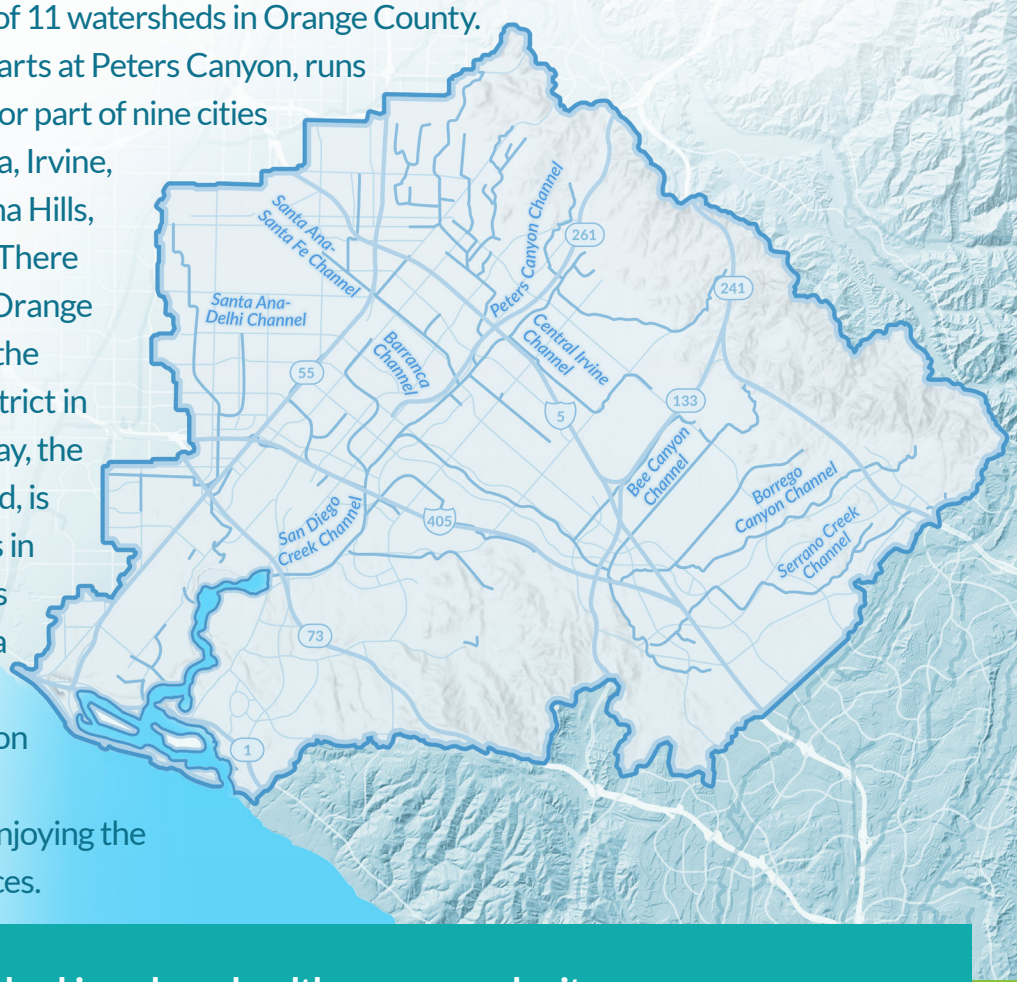
OUR WATERSHEDS OUR RESOURCES:
NEWPORT BAY WATERSHED

H2OC STORMWATER PROGRAM

A watershed is the land area that channels rainfall to creeks, streams, rivers, and eventually to reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.

All of Orange County is located in a watershed!

The Newport Bay Watershed is 1 of 11 watersheds in Orange County. This 154 square mile watershed starts at Peters Canyon, runs along Loma Ridge, and includes all or part of nine cities including Tustin, Orange, Santa Ana, Irvine, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, Laguna Hills, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. There are also areas of Unincorporated Orange County and facilities managed by the Orange County Flood Control District in this watershed. Upper Newport Bay, the largest waterbody in the watershed, is one of the largest natural estuaries in Southern California and discharges into the Pacific Ocean near Corona Del Mar State Beach. Whether you're biking through Peters Canyon Regional Park or running through the San Diego Creek Trail, you're enjoying the Newport Bay Watershed's resources.



The Newport Bay Watershed is only as healthy as we make it. By taking simple actions in our homes and communities we can all help the Newport Bay Watershed thrive!

YOU ARE THE SOLUTION TO RUNOFF POLLUTION

Runoff pollution can harm our creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean. Unlike the sewer system, which treats waste water from inside our homes and businesses, **anything that goes into the storm drain system flows untreated into our waterways.** Most OC residents value clean waterways, so it's important to join your neighbors and do your part to protect our water resources.

In the Newport Bay Watershed, our top priority is preventing pollution from bacteria, trash, pesticides, and nutrients. These pollutants can occur from everyday actions like maintaining your landscape. **When not properly managed, rainwater and irrigation runoff can transport these pollutants to our waterways where they can impact aquatic life and human health.** Here are some simple ways to protect our watershed:

Bacteria
(from pet waste and sewage spills)

- Carry bags when walking pets and dispose of pet waste in a covered bin.
- Pick up pet waste in your yard at least once a week and before any forecasted rain events.
- Have a licensed plumber create a maintenance plan for your sewer laterals and report sewage spills immediately (see reporting hotline below).

Trash
(waste on the ground)

- Place all trash in closed bins.
- Leave no trace when enjoying this watershed's resources.
- If your waste bin is broken, contact your waste hauler to receive a replacement.

Pesticides
(chemicals in lawn care products)

- Use integrated pest management (IPM) to target specific pests in problem areas instead of widespread chemical use. For more information visit h2oc.org/IPM.
- If you must apply pesticides, only use the proper amount in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Apply pesticides when conditions are dry, wind is minimal, and rain is not in the forecast for the next 48 hours.

Nutrients
(chemicals in fertilizer and detergents)

- Use mulch to reduce the need for fertilizer.
- Consider a soil test to see if you need to apply fertilizer. If fertilizer is necessary, apply it in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and when rain is not in the forecast for the next 48 hours.
- Select fertilizer-only products instead of combination weed and feed items when fertilizer is needed.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of in your driveway.

Help keep our watersheds healthy! If you see any pollution, you can report it by calling the **24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline: 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)** or **visiting myOCeServices.ocgov.com**.

Who is H_2OC?

H_2OC is YOU! H_2OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District. Visit h2oc.org to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources.

To learn more about the Newport Bay Watershed, go to: h2oc.org/blog/newport-bay-watershed

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