

# OUR WATERSHEDS OUR RESOURCES: SAN CLEMENTE COASTAL STREAMS WATERSHED



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 San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed is 1 of 11 watersheds in Orange County. This 18 square mile watershed starts south of San Juan Hills High School and includes all or part of three cities including San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point, and San Clemente. There are also areas of Unincorporated Orange County and facilities managed by the Orange County Flood Control District in this watershed. Prima Deshecha Cañada, the largest waterbody in the watershed, begins in northeast San Juan Capistrano and discharges into the Pacific Ocean at Poche Beach. Whether if you're getting a round of golf in at San Clemente Municipal Golf Course or swimming at Capistrano Beach Park, you're enjoying the San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed's resources.



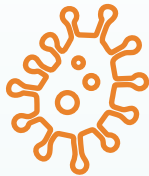
The San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed is only as healthy as we make it. By taking simple actions in our homes and communities we can all help the San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed thrive!

# 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 San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed, our top priority is preventing pollution from bacteria, nutrients, and metals. These pollutants can occur from everyday actions like walking your dog, maintaining your landscape, or driving your car. **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)

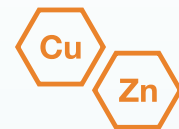
- Carry bags when walking pets and dispose of pet waste in a covered bin.
- Pick up pet waste in your yard at least once a week and before any forecasted rain events.
- Have a licensed plumber create a maintenance plan for your sewer laterals and report sewage spills immediately (see reporting hotline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



## 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.



## Metals

(found in brake pads and the hulls of boats)

- Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of in your driveway.
- Keep scrap parts or other used metals indoors or stored under cover.

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](http://myOCeServices.ocgov.com).

## Who is H<sub>2</sub>OC?

H<sub>2</sub>OC is YOU! H<sub>2</sub>OC 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](http://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 San Clemente Coastal Streams Watershed, go to:  
[h2oc.org/blog/san-clemente-coastal-streams](http://h2oc.org/blog/san-clemente-coastal-streams)

