

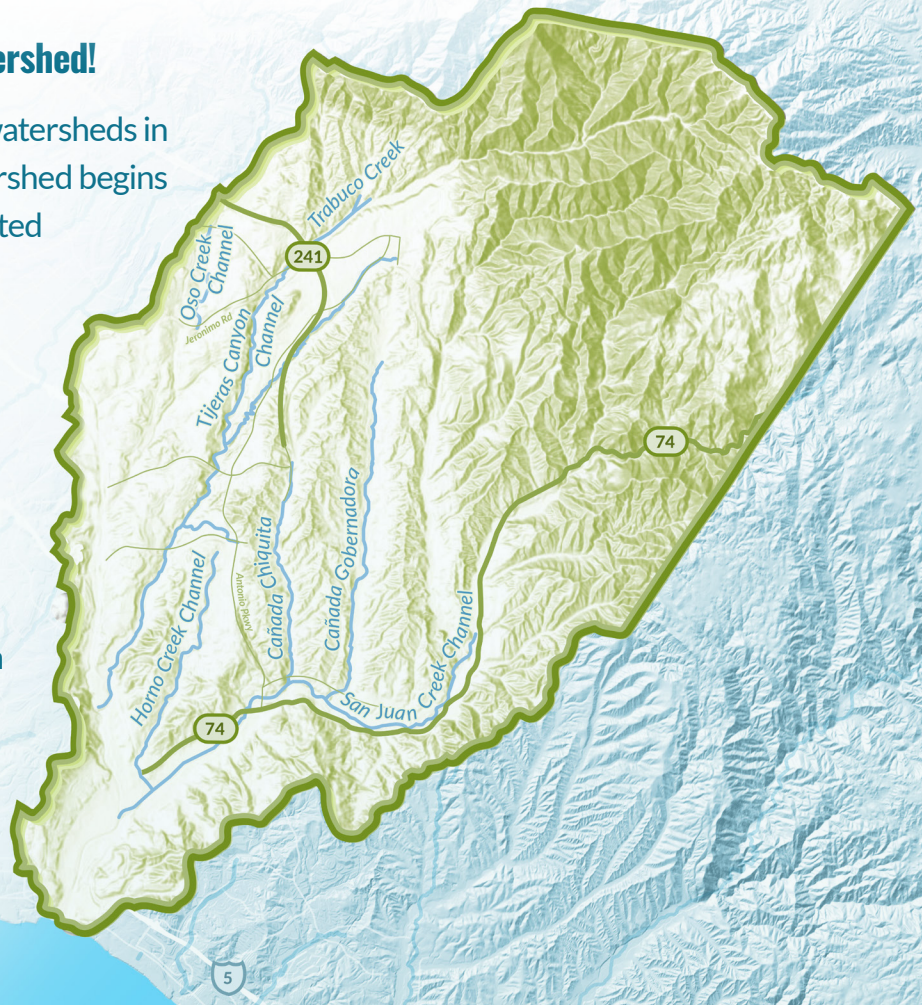
OUR WATERSHEDS OUR RESOURCES: SAN JUAN CREEK WATERSHED



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 Juan Creek Watershed is 1 of 11 watersheds in Orange County. This 125 square mile watershed begins in the Santa Ana Mountains in unincorporated Orange County and includes all or part of 6 cities including Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, San Juan Capistrano, and Dana Point. There are also areas of Unincorporated Orange County and facilities managed by the Orange County Flood Control District in this watershed. San Juan Creek, the watershed's namesake, flows 29 miles from the Santa Ana Mountains to the Pacific Ocean at Doheney State Beach. Whether you're wandering through O'Neill Regional Park or running around Florence Joyner Olympiad Park, you're enjoying the San Juan Creek Watershed's resources.



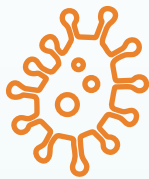
The San Juan Creek Watershed is only as healthy as we make it. By taking simple actions in our homes and communities we can all help the San Juan Creek Watershed thrive!

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.

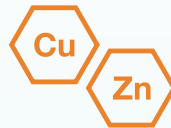
In the San Juan Creek Watershed, preventing pollution from bacteria, metals, and pesticides is a top priority. These pollutants can be generated from everyday activities like walking your dog, driving your car, or maintaining your landscape. **When not properly managed, rainwater and irrigation runoff 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).



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.



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.

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 H₂OC?

H₂OC is YOU! H₂OC 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 San Juan Creek Watershed, go to:
h2oc.org/blog/san-juan-creek

