

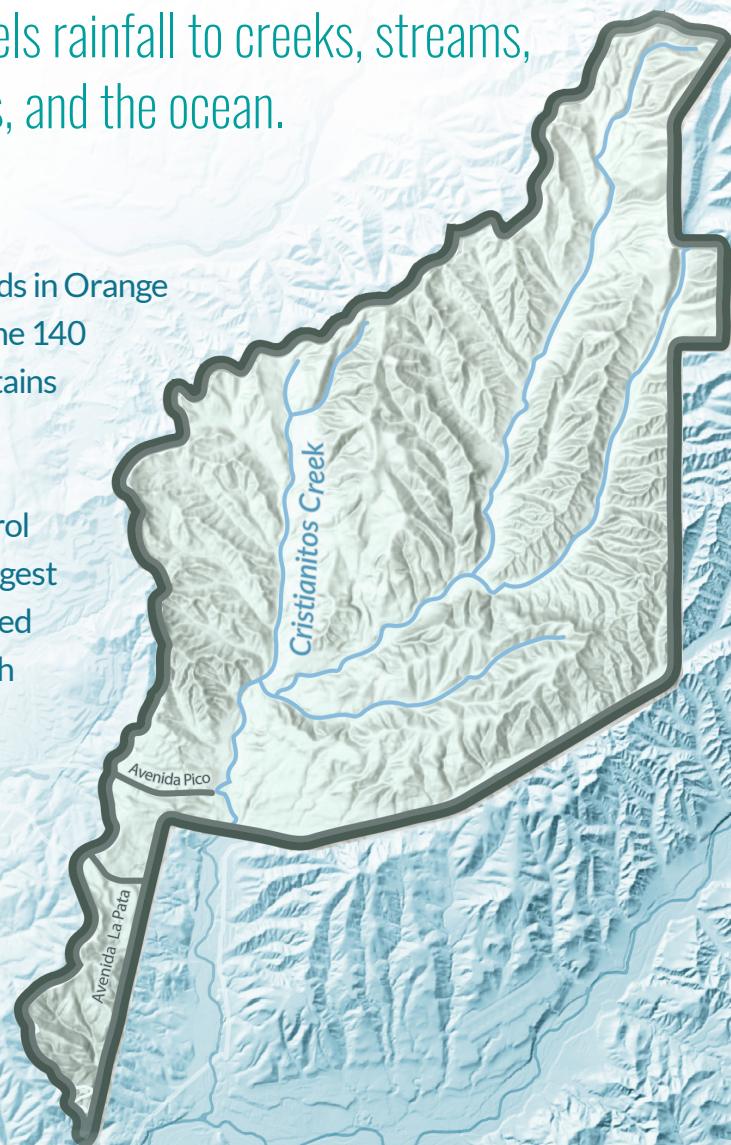
# OUR WATERSHEDS OUR RESOURCES: SAN MATEO CREEK WATERSHED



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 Mateo Creek Watershed is 1 of 11 watersheds in Orange County. Orange County's 20 square mile portion of the 140 square mile watershed starts in the Santa Ana Mountains and includes part of the City of San Clemente. There are also areas of Unincorporated Orange County and facilities managed by the Orange County Flood Control District in this watershed. Cristianitos Creek is the largest waterway in Orange County's portion of the watershed and flows 10 miles in its entirety. It then connects with the watershed's namesake, San Mateo Creek, in San Diego County where it meets the Pacific Ocean at San Mateo Point. Whether you're playing baseball at Richard T. Steed Memorial Park or exploring Cristianos South Regional Trail, you're enjoying the San Mateo Creek Watershed's resources.



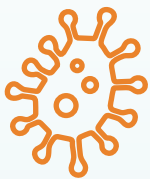
The San Mateo Creek Watershed is only as healthy as we make it.  
By taking simple actions in our homes and communities we can all help the  
San Mateo Creek Watershed thrive!

# 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 Mateo Creek Watershed, our top priority is preventing pollution from bacteria, like pet waste and sewage spills. These pollutants can occur from walking your dog or damaged or clogged sewer laterals. **When not properly managed, rainwater and irrigation runoff can transport pollutants like this one 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).



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 Mateo Creek Watershed, go to:  
[h2oc.org/blog/san-mateo-creek](http://h2oc.org/blog/san-mateo-creek)

