

## WATERSHED PROTECTION

### What is Watershed Protection?

Watersheds are areas of land where rainfall drains to a common waterway, like the San Luis Rey River or Buena Vista Lagoon in Oceanside.



All waterways in Oceanside drain to the ocean. The City of Oceanside's Clean Water Program strives to protect the quality of our rivers, beaches and streams. As a coastal community, we rely on clean water for the enjoyment and safety of our residents, our economy, and to support a healthy environment for wildlife. The City is also required to comply with Federal and State laws such as the Clean Water Act, that aim to protect our waterways. The City's watershed protection activities include business inspections to prevent stormwater pollution, investigating citizen concerns, public education, and monitoring the health of our waterways.



### What is stormwater pollution and why is it important to prevent it?

When it rains, pollutants like trash, bacteria, fertilizers, oils, and pesticides are washed down our streets and gutters into the nearest storm drain. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, our storm drains flow to the nearest waterway without any treatment to remove these contaminants.

Additionally, pollution can come from "dry weather" runoff when it's not raining, such as broken sprinklers or car washing in the street. Pollutants in runoff can make conditions unsafe for local wildlife and impact the quality of Oceanside's famous beaches. Citizens, businesses and visitors alike can make a difference in preventing stormwater pollution.

### How can I prevent stormwater pollution?

In preparation for the upcoming wet season, it is up to each resident, business and visitor to do their part to prevent stormwater pollution. Please report any illegal dumping into a storm drain or if you see water running down the street and it is not raining. Your information will help protect our natural resources and wildlife that depend on healthy waterways. Please call the City of Oceanside at 760-435-4500 to report illegal dumping.

### Follow these simple steps to prevent pollutants from leaving your property when it rains:

- Apply fertilizers and pesticides during dry weather, not before forecasted rain
- Pick up trash on the ground and properly dispose of it in a trash or recycle bin
- Pick up after your pet
- Keep landscape irrigation water from running off your property
- Use methods like mulch or drought tolerant plantings to prevent soil erosion
- Repair leaking vehicles and perform all maintenance indoors, or at a licensed repair shop
- Recycle used motor oil and filters at your local auto supply store
- Keep all household chemicals and hazardous waste tightly sealed and safely stored indoors
- Wash your car at a commercial carwash
- Properly dispose of grease and vegetable oil

### Upcoming Events

Please visit the Green Oceanside webpages at [www.greenoceanside.org](http://www.greenoceanside.org) to learn more about watershed protection, upcoming events, and ways to become involved with City environmental initiatives.

### Remember...

#### Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

Report any water running in the street when it is not raining, or anyone dumping in the storm drain, curb, or gutter. Call the City of Oceanside at (760) 435-4500 to report.

