

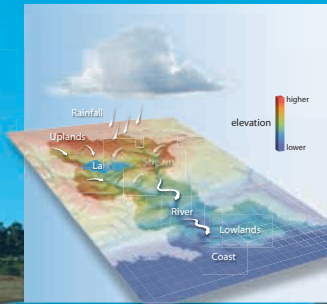


think **BLUE**
SAN DIEGO

San Dieguito River WATERSHED

what is a watershed?

Watersheds are land areas that funnel water to a common low point – usually a stream, lake, river or out to the ocean. When it rains, water flows down from areas of higher elevation following the natural shape of the land. Along the way, rainwater and urban runoff collect and deposit trash, sediment, heavy metals, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants into our local waterways. These pollutants degrade water quality, threatening property and the health of nearby residents and wildlife. Everyone lives within a watershed, and preventing pollution and contamination from entering our local waterways is everyone's responsibility.



Southwest Florida Water Management District

what is a storm drain?



Storm drains collect rain water to help prevent flooding in our communities. The storm drain system includes a vast network of underground pipes and open channels that take water away from streets and other developed areas. Water enters the storm

drain system through an opening in the curb called a curb inlet. Curb inlets serve as the neighborhood entry point for storm water's journey to the ocean.

Water in the storm drain system receives no treatment or filtering and is separate from the sewer system. All water in the storm drain system eventually flows to our rivers, creeks, bays and the ocean – along with the pollutants it carries.

Keeping pollutants out of storm drains helps preserve our environment and improve water quality in the San Diegoito River Watershed. It can also help you avoid costly fines related to the illegal disposal of trash and other pollutants into the storm drain system.

about

the San Dieguito River Watershed

The San Dieguito River watershed extends through a diverse array of habitats from its eastern headwaters in the Volcan Mountains near Julian to the main outlet at the San Dieguito Lagoon and the Pacific Ocean. The watershed encompasses approximately 346 square miles and includes portions of the cities of Escondido, Poway, San Diego, Del Mar and Solana Beach. About 80% of the watershed lies within unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of San Diego County. The current watershed population is approximately 157,000; however, this level is projected to increase to over 210,000 residents by 2020.

There are several important natural areas within the watershed, including the 55-mile long, 80,000 acre San Dieguito River Park; the 150 acre San Dieguito Lagoon; and four water storage reservoirs including Lake Hodges, Lake Ramona, Lake Sutherland,

and Lake Poway. These areas sustain a number of "special status" species including the Belding's savannah sparrow, California least tern, Brown pelican, Western snowy plover, Horned lizard, and Orange-throated whiptail.

The San Dieguito Lagoon is especially sensitive to the effects of pollutants and suffers from occasional oxygen depletion due to restricted or intermittent tidal flushing. The restoration of these wetlands is in progress and will continue to create new salt marsh habitat and least-tern nesting sites. The restored tidal basin will greatly enhance water quality by helping to keep the lagoon mouth open to the ocean.



4 Reservoirs
157,324 Residents



quick facts

Total Square Miles: 346 mi

Total Population: 157,324

Cities in the Watershed:

Escondido, Poway, San Diego,
Del Mar, Solana Beach and
Unincorporated San Diego County

Water Supply Reservoirs:

Lake Hodges, Lake Poway, Lake Ramona,
and Sutherland

Important Water Bodies:

San Diego River
and San Diego Lagoon

Major Receiving Water: Pacific Ocean

Land Use Statistics:

Undeveloped = 39 %
Parks/Open Space = 22 %
Residential = 18 %
Agriculture = 14 %
Other = 7%

protect your watershed

Some water pollution problems can be traced to a specific location such as a pipe or waste disposal site. However, most water quality problems are more difficult to isolate and control since they cannot be traced back to one specific source. Pollution problems like these are everyone's responsibility. The list below includes the most significant types and most likely sources of pollution in the San Dieguito River watershed.

Pollutants of Concern

- Bacteria
- Nutrients

Likely Pollutant Sources

- Garbage, litter & debris
- Animal & yard waste
- Home and garden care activities
- Landscaping





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To report storm water pollution in San Diego, call the Think Blue Hotline:

(619) 235-1000

thinkblue.org

facebook.com/ThinkBlueSanDiego

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

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Think Blue Tips

You can help protect the San Dieguito River Watershed by taking simple steps to prevent pollution:

- Properly dispose of trash and take large items to a landfill or recycling center.
- Take household chemicals (paint, motor oil or household cleaners) to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Pick up after your pet and properly dispose of waste in the trash.
- Eliminate irrigation runoff – fix broken sprinklers and control over-spray.
- Sweep up debris and dirt instead of using a hose to wash it away.
- Use fertilizer sparingly—most plants need far less than typically given.
- Wash vehicles on your lawn to absorb the water.
- Use pesticide alternatives like beneficial insects or non-toxic /biodegradable products.
- Direct wash water onto landscaped areas or collect it using a wet/dry vacuum or mop for disposal into the sewer system.
- Never dispose of ANY wastewater in a storm drain.



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