

# CAUSES OF WATER POLLUTION

- ✓ Rainwater draining to the storm water system that comes in contact with pollutants, such as rooftop particulates from air pollution, oil, litter, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediments already on the ground.
- ✓ Improper disposal of substances into the storm drain system, such as food waste, paint, mop water, and landscape chemicals and automotive fluids.
- ✓ Illicit connections: drains that are supposed to discharge to the sanitary sewer but are currently connected to the storm drain system.



**949-824-5073**

email: [stormwater@uci.edu](mailto:stormwater@uci.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
IRVINE

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[STORMWATER@UCI.EDU](mailto:STORMWATER@UCI.EDU)

SPILL REPORTING: IMMEDIATELY  
REPORT ALL SPILLS AND POLLUTED  
WATER DISCHARGES TO EH&S 949-  
824-5073 OR UC POLICE 949-824-5223

## LINKS AND CONTACT LIST

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)  
949-824-5073 [www.ehs.uci.edu](http://www.ehs.uci.edu)

Orange County Storm Water Program

714-567-6363 [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)

California Political Interest Group (CalPIRG)

[www.CalPIRG.org](http://www.CalPIRG.org)

California Coastal Commission

[www.coastal.gov/web](http://www.coastal.gov/web)

**UCIrvine**  
University of California, Irvine

# KEEPING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE WATERSHED AND SAN DIEGO CREEK CLEAN

*Stormwater and Nonpoint  
Source Pollution  
Prevention from Urban  
Runoff, Future Solutions  
Now*



# WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when said that a watershed is: “ *That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community.*”

# WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. In the Newport watershed NPS pollution is caused by rainfall moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human made pollutants, finally depositing them into San Diego Creek, Newport Back Bay, San Joaquin Fresh Water Marsh, local coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

[STORMWATER@UCLEU](mailto:STORMWATER@UCLEU)

Call 949.824.5073 for Info:  
Brochures

# Watersheds

## SIX WAYS TO PROTECT OUR CAMPUS WATERSHED!

Learn more about Watershed Protection, Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Runoff Pollution

Protect your River, Back Bay Wetlands and Ocean by depositing of waste in an appropriate manor.

Drop nothing on the street or sidewalk. They drain to San Diego Creek, Newport Back Bay and the Ocean.

Clean up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste properly.

Please use an ashtray to depose of Cigarettes. As they are a major problem on coastal beaches.

Take your car to a carwash instead. Keep heavy metals, dyes, oil and grease away from the creek.

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# COMMON WATER POLLUTANTS

The most common water pollutants come from –

- ✓ Oil and grease (leaking cars, kitchen waste and raw sewage back ups.)
- ✓ Heavy metals (copper and zinc from brake and tire wear deposited as dust)
- ✓ Nutrients (fertilizers)
- ✓ Toxic Chemicals (from urban runoff and energy production; pesticides, detergents)
- ✓ Excess herbicides, and insecticides from gardens and residential areas:
- ✓ Mud and sediment (landscape, construction activities)
- ✓ Litter (cigarettes, food packaging, flyers, and newspapers)
- ✓ Coliform bacteria (from animal and human excrement)