We all live in a watershed

A watershed is the area of land which drains rain and runoff to a body of water, in our case the Pacific Ocean. We all live in a watershed.

The Santa Ynez Mountains are the main feature of our local watersheds. Water falling on the south side of the mountains drains to the Pacific Ocean. South Coast watersheds are the land from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Healthy vs. Unhealthy Watersheds

A healthy watershed includes native plants and animals, tree cover, stable banks and clean water. When a watershed is healthy, it provides important habitat for animals and plants, flood control protection, and a place for people to enjoy nature. An unhealthy watershed occurs when creeks are degraded and polluted.

What Passes Through Our Watersheds Ends Up in the Ocean

When pollution enters the creeks, it makes its way to the ocean. Aquatic life can be harmed both in the creeks and ocean. The ocean may be polluted and unsafe for humans to swim in.

Information Sources

General Information:
- City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division: 897-2658
- Santa Barbara County Water Agency: 568-3440

Beach Closures & Weekly Monitoring Test Results:
- Santa Barbara News Press Listing (Saturday)
- Ocean Water Quality Hotline: 681-4949
- Website: www.sbcounty.org/wso-ocean.htm

Septic or Gray Water Systems Maintenance:
- County Environmental Health: 681-4900

Dispose of Used Motor Oil or Household Hazardous Waste:
- Used Oil Hotline: 1-800-CLEAN-UP
- Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center: 882-3602
- Marborg Recycling Center: 963-1852

Non-Toxic Pesticides:
- www.ourwaterourworld.org

For more information on how to prevent polluted runoff and protect watersheds, or to report water pollution, call: (877) OUR OCEAN

For more information online:
www.sbprojectcleanaerwater.org
www.sbcreeks.com

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Help Prevent Pollution of Creek and Ocean Water

The Ocean Begins on Your Street

Stop and Think

Every thing that goes down the storm drain flows directly into the ocean. The ocean is our neighbor. Do you take good care of him? Then why would you allow him to be polluted?

Now think about the storm drain at your house. What is flowing into the ocean?
The Ocean is Closer Than You Think

Can you find the activities in the picture that contribute to water pollution? How do these everyday activities result in pollutants entering the storm drains and the ocean?

You can help prevent storm drain pollution and protect creeks and the ocean by following the suggestions below: