



THINK BLUE[®]
SAN DIEGO

Los Peñasquitos

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, damage property and harm 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.



what is a storm drain?

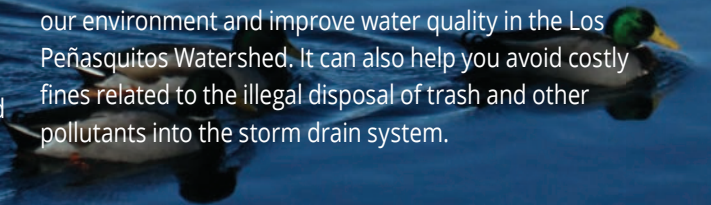


Storm drains collect rain water to help prevent flooding in our communities. The storm drain system includes a vast network of underground pipes and open channels that take water away from streets and other developed areas. Water enters

the storm drain system through an opening in the curb called a curb inlet, which serves as the entry point for stormwater'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 Los Peñasquitos 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 Los Peñasquitos Watershed

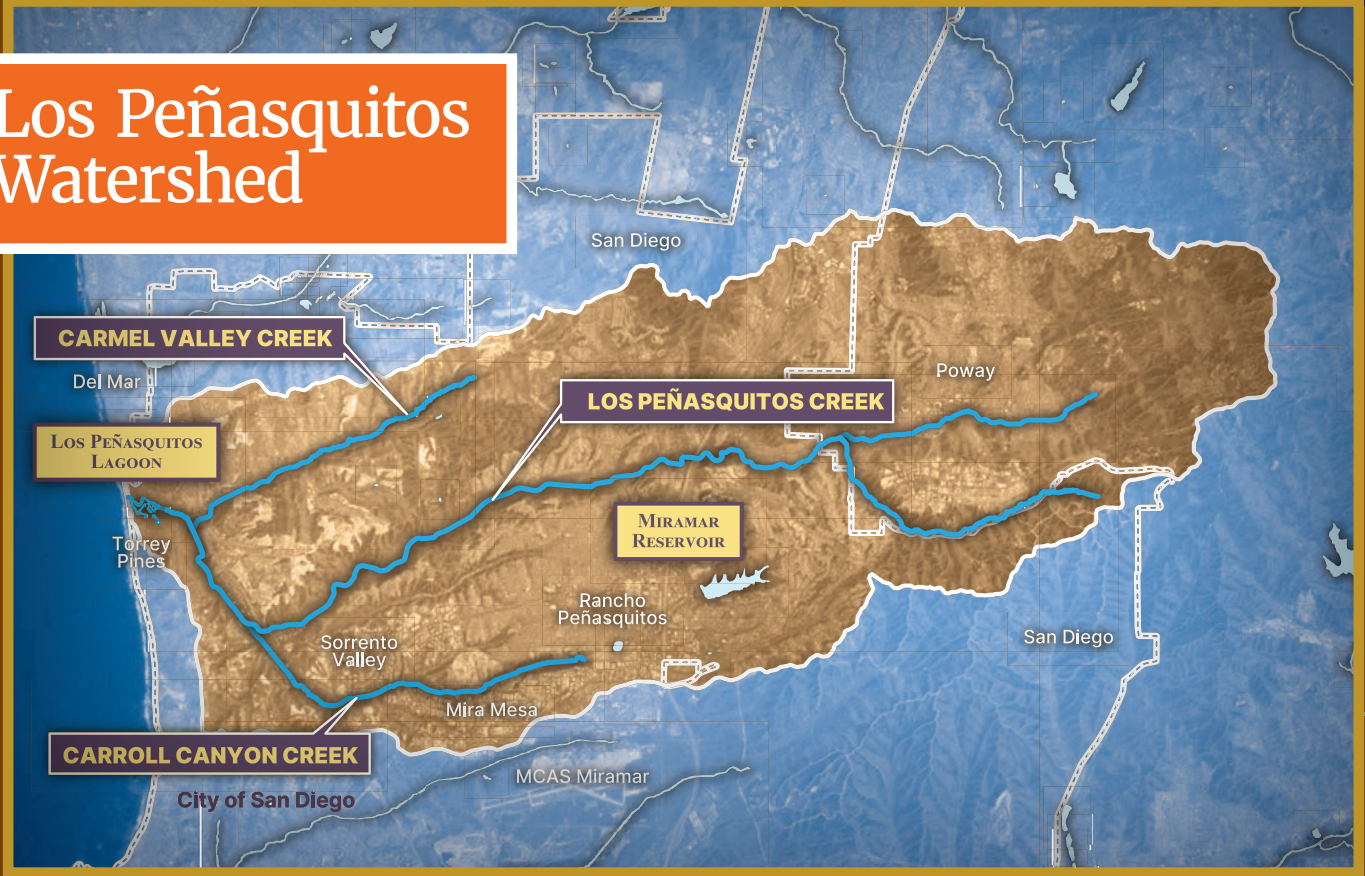
The Los Peñasquitos watershed begins in the foothills east of Highway 67 and funnels rainwater west through the communities of Poway, Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa, Sorrento Valley, Carmel Valley and Del Mar. The watershed eventually drains into the Pacific Ocean just north of Torrey Pines State Park at the mouth of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. Carmel Creek, Los Peñasquitos Creek and Carroll Canyon Creek are the main tributaries draining into the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. The lagoon's ecosystem supports diverse native fauna and flora and is especially sensitive to pollution.

The watershed is home to approximately 285,000 residents and over 180 sensitive plant and animal species. Many of these species are considered endangered under state and federal laws. Some of the species found in the watershed include the American peregrine falcon, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Salt marsh daisy, California gnatcatcher, California least tern and the Orange-throated whiptail.

The Los Peñasquitos watershed is also home to the Miramar Reservoir, the City of San Diego's water storage facility. The reservoir is located in Scripps Ranch and is a popular spot for bicycling, jogging, walking, fishing and picnicking.



Los Peñasquitos Watershed



quick facts

Total Square Miles: 94

Total Population: 284,984

Cities in the Watershed:

Del Mar, Poway & San Diego

Water Supply Reservoirs: Miramar

Important Water Bodies:

Los Peñasquitos Creek & Lagoon,
Carmel Valley Creek &
Carroll Canyon Creek

Major Receiving Water Body:

Pacific Ocean

Land Use Statistics:

Undeveloped = 11%
Open Space/Recreational = 33%
Residential = 29%
Roadways and Transportation = 13%
Other (Industrial, Office, Commercial &
Agricultural) = 14%

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 Los Peñasquitos Watershed.

Pollutants of Concern

- Bacteria
- Sediment

Likely Pollutant Sources

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





**THINK BLUE®
SAN DIEGO**

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

619-527-7500

You can also use the Get It Done app at sandiego.gov/get-it-done.

thinkblue.org

 **ThinkBlueSanDiego**

 **ThinkBlueSD**

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Think Blue Tips

You can help protect the Los Peñasquitos 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 so the ground underneath can 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

