

# The Orange County Stormwater Program



# Water Resources are Crucial to Orange County



It attracts tourists, boosting the local economy.

Water provides recreation for Orange County residents.



It is home to many types of wildlife.

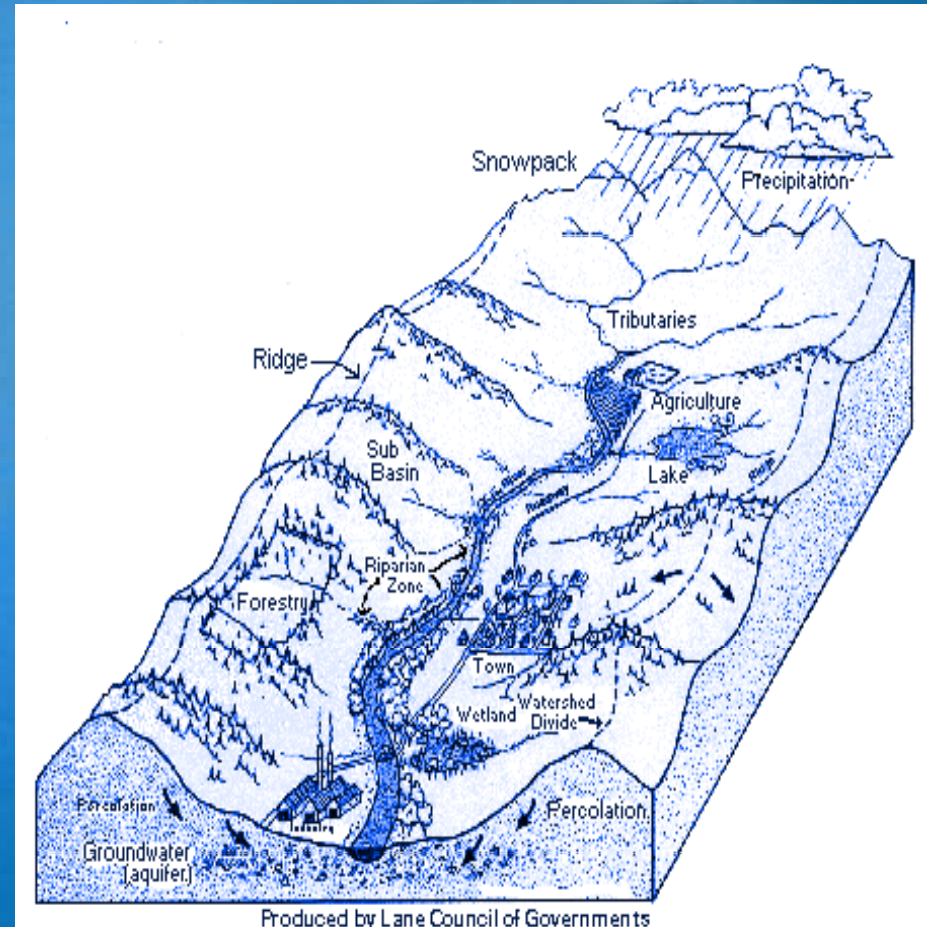
# Protecting our Water Resources is Everyone's Responsibility

- Water quality is not just a coastal issue - it starts in all regions and affects water quality from the mountains to the ocean.



# What is a Watershed?

- An area of land where the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same creek, river, bay, beach or ocean.
- No matter where you live, you live in a watershed!



# Why is it important?

- Human activities can harm or improve the condition of a watershed, including its water quality, its fish and wildlife, its forests and other vegetation, and the quality life for people who live there.

# Where does pollution come from?



- Pollutants come from a variety of sources
  - Litter
  - Automotive leaks and spills
  - Pesticides and fertilizers used on lawns
  - Pet waste
  - Leaves and lawn clippings
  - Soap and other chemicals

# What is Stormwater?

- Stormwater runoff refers to seasonal rainfall flows. During heavy rainstorms, large volumes of water drain off paved areas picking up pollutants while flowing to a storm drain.
- Once stormwater runoff enters the storm drain, it flows downstream to the nearest body of water.

# What is Urban Runoff?

- Urban runoff is water from irrigation, overwatering, car washing and other sources that travel into the street picking up pollutants while flowing to the storm drain.
- Once urban runoff enters the storm drain, it goes directly into the nearest body of water.



# Storm Drains Are Not Sewers



- Storm drains are separate from the sanitary sewer system; unlike water in the sanitary sewers (sinks and toilets) water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

The background of the slide is a deep blue color with a subtle, wavy texture that resembles water ripples. The text is centered and written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

**How Is Your City/County  
Helping to Prevent Pollutants  
from Entering Our Creeks,  
Rivers, Bays, Beaches and  
Ocean**

# Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

- Three PSAs have been created regarding pollution prevention.
- The PSAs run on cable stations and in movie theaters throughout the County



# Brochures



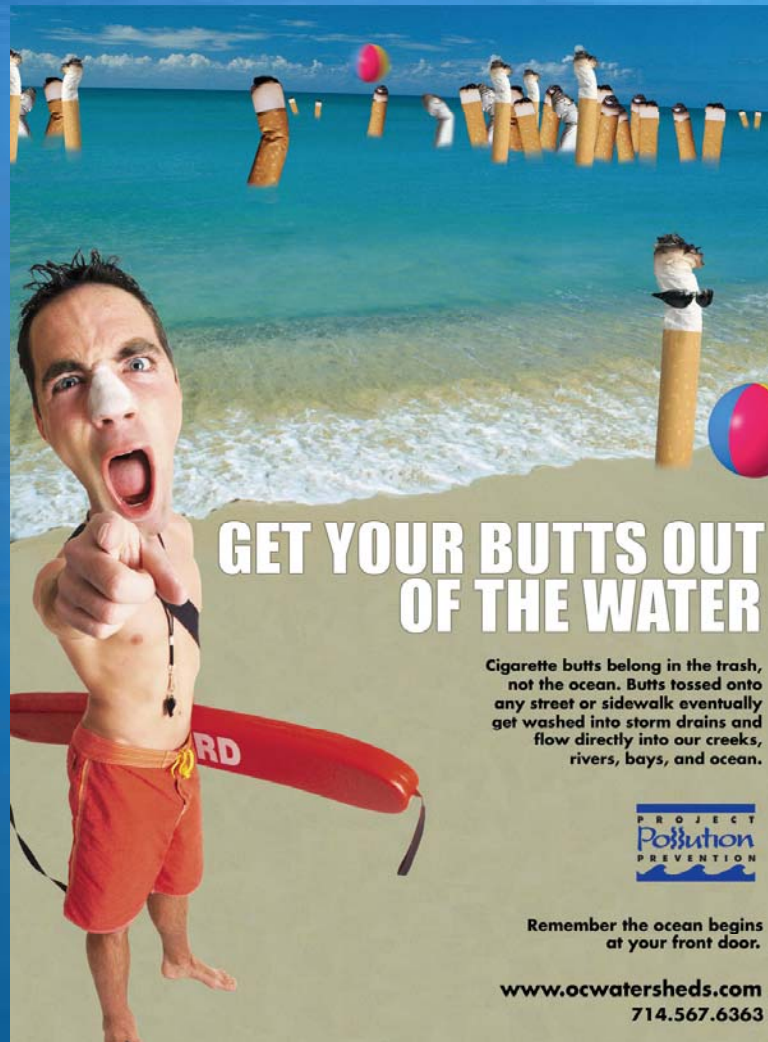
- A variety of brochures have been created to educate the public about the impacts of urban runoff and stormwater pollution.
- These brochures are distributed at city halls, municipal facilities, and retail stores such as Home Depot and Petsmart.
- Brochures can be viewed or ordered by visiting [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)

# Bus Backs

- Bus backs have been used to advertise our stormwater pollution prevention message.
- Bus backs are seen more than 33 million times each year



# Print Ads



- Six print advertisements have been created and placed in dozens of Orange County newspapers.
- Print advertisements are seen more than 13 million times per year.

The background of the slide is a deep blue color with a subtle, wavy pattern that resembles water ripples. The text is centered and written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

**How Can You Help Prevent  
Pollutants at Work and Home  
from Entering Our Creeks,  
Rivers, Bays, Beaches and  
Ocean**

# Litter

- **Do** properly dispose of litter in a trashcan. It is one of the easiest and most beneficial ways to prevent water pollution.
- **Do** pick up litter in your yard, street, office and neighborhood and put it in a trashcan.
- **Do** recycle.
- **Never** litter.





# Lawn Care

- **Do** limit the amount of pesticides and fertilizer used.
- **Do** monitor your sprinklers to prevent overwatering.
- **Never** allow excess water from your yard to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain.



# Leaves and Trimmings

- **Do** sweep all clippings with a broom and dispose of them in a green waste bin.
- **Never** use your hose to wash away leaves and trimmings.



# Automotive Leaks



- **Do** use a mat or metal pan under the vehicle to collect oil.
- If a leak or spill occurs, **do** use cat litter to soak up the liquid, then sweep up the litter and dispose of it in a trashcan.
- **Never** wash away car fluids such as oil with a hose.

# Motor Oil

- **Do** take all used oil to a certified used oil collection center or household hazardous waste collection center for recycling.
- **Never** dump automotive fluids down the storm drain.



# Car Washing



- If possible, take your car to a commercial carwash.
- **Do** consider using non-toxic, biodegradable soap when washing your car at home.
- **Do** divert washwater to a landscaped area.
- **Never** let soap suds enter the storm drain.

# Pools and Spas



- **Do** dispose of used pool water in the sanitary sewer or dechlorinate the water before draining.
  - Water can be dechlorinated by purchasing chemicals at a pool supply store, or simply refrain from using chlorine in a pool for a few days prior to draining the water.
- **Never** pour chlorinated water down the storm drain.

*Ordinances Vary By City*

# Conclusion

**Water Quality is Your Responsibility**



**The Ocean Begins at  
Your Front Door**

Thank You

