



CITY OF SANTEE

How Pollutants Impact Water Quality

These Pollutants are Mobilized By: Irrigation, Over Spray, Rain, and Wind

Storm Water Fact Sheets

POLLUTANT	IMPACTS AND SOURCES
<p>SEDIMENT</p>	<p>Sediment is common in waterways, however when sediment is introduced from human activity, it can become a significant pollutant. When sediment clouds the water, it limits natural functions such as photosynthesis, respiration, growth, and oxygen exchange in the water column. Additionally, pollutants easily adhere to sediment which provides oil, grease, and metals a free ride through our rivers and into the Pacific Ocean.</p> <p>Sources: Construction Site Activities · Slope Erosion · Bare Soil</p>
<p>NUTRIENTS</p>	<p>Nutrients are composed of both nitrogen and phosphorous, and are commonly found in fertilizers. Even decomposing plant trimmings, or green waste can add excess nutrients in our waterways that don't belong. The addition of these nutrients results in excessive growth of aquatic vegetation such as algae which decreases oxygen levels required to support life.</p> <p>Sources: Fertilizers · Green Waste</p>
<p>BACTERIA* & VIRUSES</p>	<p>Bacteria and viruses may be introduced to waterways via storm water runoff. High levels of indicator bacteria lead to the closure of beaches, lakes, rivers, and bays throughout the County of San Diego.</p> <p>Sources: Improperly Disposed Pet Waste · Illegal Sewer Connections · Sewer Overflows</p> <p>* Bacteria is the #1 Pollutant for the San Diego River</p>
<p>OIL & GREASE</p>	<p>Oil and grease compounds are toxic to aquatic life and can compromise the survival of aquatic plants and animal species.</p> <p>Sources: Routine Vehicle Use · Improper Disposal of Hazardous Waste · Oil Spills · Automotive/Equipment Leaks · Restaurant Food and Grease</p>
<p>METALS</p>	<p>Metals such as lead, zinc, cadmium, copper, chromium, and nickel are commonly found in storm water runoff. As metals are used, restored, and decay with time, they can contribute to metals found in our waterways. Heavy metals are toxic to aquatic life and will accumulate to toxic levels in fish, which could then potentially endanger any animal or human consuming it.</p> <p>Source: Galvanized Metal · Brake Pads · Corroded Paints · Automobile Body Debris</p>
<p>PESTICIDES</p>	<p>Pesticides are frequently detected at toxic levels in storm water runoff and in our waterways. Over use and improper application of these chemicals can be detrimental to both human and environmental health.</p> <p>Sources: Pesticides · Herbicides · Fungicides · Rodenticides · Insecticides</p>