What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the total land area from which rainwater drains into a creek, river, lake, ocean or any body of water. A watershed includes all of the natural terrain and neighborhoods surrounding these major water bodies, including your home or business. There are 11 watersheds in Orange County and Irvine is part of the Newport Bay Watershed (please refer to the map). All the watersheds empty into the Pacific Ocean.

What is stormwater pollution? The storm drain system is a vast network of gutters, pipes, and open channels designed for flood control, which directs untreated stormwater away from our communities. Stormwater pollution is the result of preventable pollutants such as vehicle fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, and detergents from washing cars that flow into the storm drains. When it rains, the stormwater transports these untreated pollutants directly into our watershed; which are then conveyed to the ocean.

To learn how you can help prevent water pollution, please visit www.ocwatersheds.com.