



**Conserve water**  
Figure out what your water footprint is. Are there simple ways you could use less water through life-style changes?

**Use yard care products sparingly.**  
Excess fertilizers and pesticides can drain into the stormwater system. Some lawn care products require less maintenance, water and fertilizer.

**Get involved - volunteer**  
Find a volunteer event in your neighborhood and help improve the watershed. Join your local watershed group.

**Maintain your car.**  
Leaking oil, gasoline, coolants and antifreeze and up in storm drains going untreated to nearby lakes and streams.

**Scrap your dog's poop**  
Bacteria from dog poop can contaminate waterways and make water unsafe for swimming or drinking.

**Teach the next generation**  
Educate your children on the wonders of a watershed and provide opportunities to get involved.

A watershed is an area of land on which rain and snow falls and ultimately collects and drains into a single larger body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean. Watersheds come in all sizes and are separated by ridges and hills that are called the drainage divide. These drainage basins consist of all surface water including rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs and wetlands as well as all the underlying ground water. Watersheds supply us with water for drinking, agriculture, industry, power generation, recreation, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Santa Ana River and its tributaries provide winter stream flows which are diverted to percolation basins to recharge the groundwater and aquifers throughout the watershed. This water stored underground, serves as a major source of drinking water and other urban needs. These critical recharge facilities have improved water levels and water quality for more than 100 years. Imported water, piped in from outside the watershed, is also used to recharge our local aquifers.

- Allow gardens to capture, hold, and infiltrate rainwater
- Prevent pollution by diverting, slowing, and filtering stormwater through mulch and appropriate plantings
- Use locally adapted plants that need little irrigation, bloom beautifully, and provide habitat for birds and pollinators

- ★ **East Valley Water District**  
Natural Resources & Urban/Forestry Division  
908-888-9901 • [www.eastvalley.org](http://www.eastvalley.org)
- ★ **Water Conservation Center/Mountain West**  
Conservation Garden & Plant - Free to Public  
Chemturg - 909-626-2771 • Mon. Sat & 5pm
- ★ **Wet Coffee on the Santa Ana River Trail**  
A mild introduction to the wonders of the watershed  
Cotton Weave & Sustainability - cottonweave.org
- ★ **Land Use Learning Center/Riverside**  
Tour Sustainable Offices, Parks & Ag Gardens  
Riverside County RCDC - [rcdc.org](http://rcdc.org) 951-461-7661
- ★ **Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park**  
Open House Day - Free to Public  
Ipsburg - 909-805-5000
- ★ **Sycamore Creek/Arroyo Valley, El Tirol/Mesa Valley**  
Displays, Workshops & Programs  
Riverside County RCDC - [rcdc.org](http://rcdc.org) 951-277-0219

The Santa Ana River Watershed is home to the concept and plan called "One Water One Watershed" or OWOW. OWOW reflects a comprehensive view of the watershed and water resources. It is an integral view encompassing all agencies and organizations in the watershed that looks at all types of water (local surface and groundwater, imported, storm water, wastewater) as components of a single water resource, inextricably linked to land use and habitat, and a part of the watershed's natural hydrology. By this view, new water solutions can be developed that are integrated, multi-beneficial and collaborative.

When water from irrigation and rain washes over yards, driveways and streets, it collects fertilizers, pesticides, oil, pet waste and other pollutants. This runoff flows untreated into storm drains. The watersheds from all the cities within the watershed merge and make their way downstream until all the runoff water enters the Pacific Ocean. The runoff, sometimes called nonpoint source pollution, individuals can have a large impact on the health of our watershed. Help protect our water resources by preventing pollution at its source:

- Maintain your vehicle and have oil leaks fixed
- Scoop pet waste, bag it, and put it in the garbage
- Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash
- Minimize the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- Properly dispose of tires, litter, and recyclables

Dumping untreated sewage overboard not only pollutes our waters but is illegal. The same law applies to using California's waters as a bathroom. Make the right choice. Stop by the bathroom before leaving shore. Always empty sewage at an approved pumpout station. Being a good environmental citizen helps to save the waters you love.

The Santa Ana River Watershed drains a 2,660 square-mile area and includes portions of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties. It is home to more than 6 million people. The Santa Ana River flows more than 100 miles and drains the largest coastal stream system in Southern California. The watershed contains several water storage facilities, including Lake Mathews, Lake Perris, and Big Bear Lake. Other flood control facilities along the river are Prado and Seven Oaks dams. The watershed is heavily urbanized, though some agricultural and undeveloped areas remain today.

Water conservation is critical to the Santa Ana River. Water from the river is used and reused throughout the watershed to supply an ever-growing population. With limited local surface water resources, we must work together to promote responsibility and eliminate water waste. Help ensure the availability of water for our children by considering your water footprint and finding new ways to use water more efficiently.

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