



county of san diego

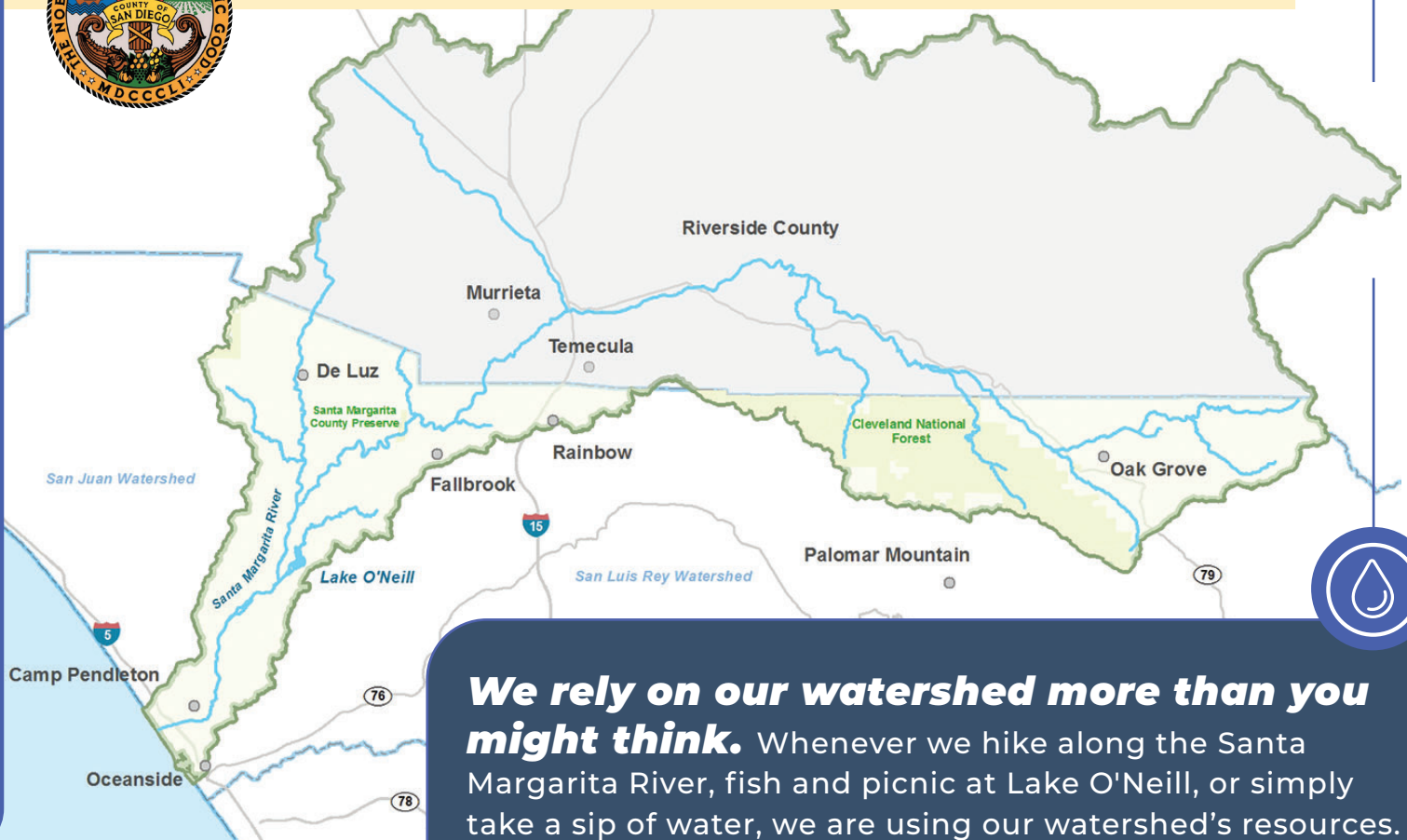
Our Santa Margarita Watershed

Watersheds are land areas that drain water through streams, lakes and rivers to a common low point – usually the ocean.

The Santa Margarita Watershed is 1 of 11 watersheds within San Diego County. The Santa Margarita Watershed begins east of Palomar Mountain near Oak Grove. Water then flows into Riverside County before returning to San Diego County, where it reaches the Pacific Ocean near Oceanside. If you live within this watershed, actions you take at your home and within your community can help improve the water quality in our rivers, lakes, and ocean.



Santa Margarita Watershed Map



We rely on our watershed more than you might think. Whenever we hike along the Santa Margarita River, fish and picnic at Lake O'Neill, or simply take a sip of water, we are using our watershed's resources.

We Can Protect Our Watersheds with Just a Few Steps!

The water that flows through our watershed picks up pollutants like nutrients, bacteria, and trash, which can contaminate our waterways. **The top priority in the Santa Margarita Watershed is preventing nutrient pollution, like fertilizers for example.** As residents, it is up to us to keep it clean. Every individual action can add up to big changes.

You can help protect our watershed by taking these simple actions to prevent pollution:



Nutrients | *nitrogen and phosphorous*

- Use less fertilizer and pesticides – most plants need less than what they are given.
- Sweep up leaf litter and plant debris. Be sure to dispose it in a designated container.



Bacteria | *found in waste and sewage*

- Keep your yard free of pet waste. Carry bags when walking your pet and properly dispose of their waste in designated containers.
- Take care of your sewer or septic system. Report sewage leaks or spills immediately to 858-505-6657.
- Properly dispose of RV sewage at a designated dump station.



Trash | *including green waste*

- Throw all trash away in designated containers and keep the lids closed.
- Visit <https://wastefreesd.org/> to find out how to dispose or recycle specific items.

The County of San Diego and its partners also work together to keep our watersheds healthy.

If you would like to learn more about these efforts in the Santa Margarita Watershed, visit www.projectcleanwater.org/santa-margarita-wma/

Call Us For More Information or to Report Pollution. 1-888-846-0800

watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov ■ www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater