

PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND

Our Local Streams

Are home to a wide variety of native fish, plants and wildlife, including steelhead, coho salmon, California red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and more! ¹

Erosion and Sediment

Excess sediment in our streams and rivers is a primary factor in limiting habitat for steelhead, coho salmon and other aquatic species. ¹

Impervious Surfaces

Every 8 months, 10.9 million gallons of oil runs off streets and into the waters off America's coastlines – equivalent to the amount lost in the Exxon Valdez spill. ²

Impervious surfaces also increase the volume and intensity of stormwater runoff, causing erosion, flooding and increased pollutant loads.

Pollutant Sources

Bacteria and nitrates originate from septic and sewer systems, storm drains, homeless camps, livestock and agricultural operations. ³

Sediment originates from roads, land development, timber harvests, agriculture and lands scarred by wildfires. ³

Stormwater Runoff

6 beach areas are permanently posted due to routinely high bacteria levels. ³

What can you do?

- Keep development away from streams and riparian areas
- Limit the amount of impervious surfaces (paved areas, patios, etc.) on your property
- Control erosion on your construction site
- Make sure your septic system is working properly
- Don't wash your car (or other items) in the street
- Limit water use by removing or limiting lawns, and using drought tolerant landscaping
- Implement Low Impact Development (LID) principles. Slow it . Spread it. Sink it!
- Exercise care of / limit use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Follow directions.
- Read the County's Stream Care Guide for more info!

Sources:

1. County Stream Care Guide
2. Pew Oceans Commission
3. County Environmental Health Dept.