

The Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region is the basis for the Regional Board's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for all the ground and surface waters of the region. The term "water quality standards," as used in the federal Clean Water Act, includes both the beneficial uses of specific waterbodies and the levels of quality that must be met and maintained to protect those uses.

### **3.10.3.3 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region**

The San Diego Region is divided into a coastal plain area, a central mountain-valley area, and an eastern mountain-valley area. Precipitation occurs principally as rain, with snow common only in the high mountains. Runoff in the Region results mainly from rainfall. The melting of snowpack and surfacing ground water springs also contribute small additional amounts of runoff. The flow of surface and ground waters in the Region is in an east to west direction toward the Pacific Ocean.

The San Diego Region encompasses most of San Diego county, parts of southwestern Riverside County, and southwestern Orange County. The Region is divided into 11 major hydrologic units, 54 hydrologic areas and 147 hydrologic subareas. In accordance with the early DWR definitions, hydrologic units are the entire watershed of one or more streams; hydrologic areas are major tributaries and/or major groundwater basins within the hydrologic unit; and hydrologic subareas are major subdivisions of hydrologic areas including both water-bearing and nonwater-bearing formations.

The Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit is a rectangular area of about 750 square miles. Included in it are portions of Camp Pendleton, as well as the civilian population centers of Murrieta, Temecula and part of Fallbrook. The unit is drained largely by the Santa Margarita River, Murrieta Creek, and Temecula River. The only coastal lagoon of the unit is the Santa Margarita Lagoon, which lies totally within the Camp Pendleton Naval Reservation of the U.S. Marine Corps. The slough at the mouth of the river is normally closed off from the ocean by a sandbar. The major surface water storage areas are Vail Lake and O'Neill Lake.

The Santa Margarita Hydrologic Unit is comprised of the following nine hydrologic areas: the Ysidora, Deluz, Murrieta, Auld, Pechanga, Wilson, Cave Rocks, Aguanga, and Oak Grove Hydrologic Areas (SDRWQCB, 1998).

### **3.10.4 Regulatory Considerations**

Federal and State laws have been enacted that establish the requirements for adequate planning, implementation, management, and enforcement for the control of water quality. The principal federal and State laws pertaining to the regulation of water quality are known respectively as the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act) and Division 7 of the 1969 California Water Code (also known as the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act). The laws are similar in many ways. The fundamental purpose of each law is to protect the beneficial uses of water. An important distinction between the two is that the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act addresses both ground and surface waters, while the Clean Water Act addresses surface water only.