

## What Is A Watershed?

A watershed describes an area of **land** that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water. This large body of water could be a larger river, a lake or an ocean. For example, the San Francisco Bay watershed is an enormous watershed that covers a lot of land. Rainwater that falls on more than half of the State of California ultimately drains into the San Francisco Bay. First, rain water rolls downhill into little streams. These streams then carry the water further downhill into larger rivers. When the rivers reach sea level, they empty into the San Francisco Bay, which eventually drains into the Pacific Ocean.

A watershed can cover a small or large land area. At Hidden Villa, for instance, the creeks drain a relatively small amount of land. Small watersheds are usually part of larger watersheds. The Hidden Villa watershed, which is supplied by all the rain water that falls on the Hidden Villa hillsides, drains into the Adobe Creek. Adobe Creek flows out to the baylands and empties into the San Francisco Bay. Therefore, the small Hidden Villa watershed is also part of the bigger San Francisco Watershed.