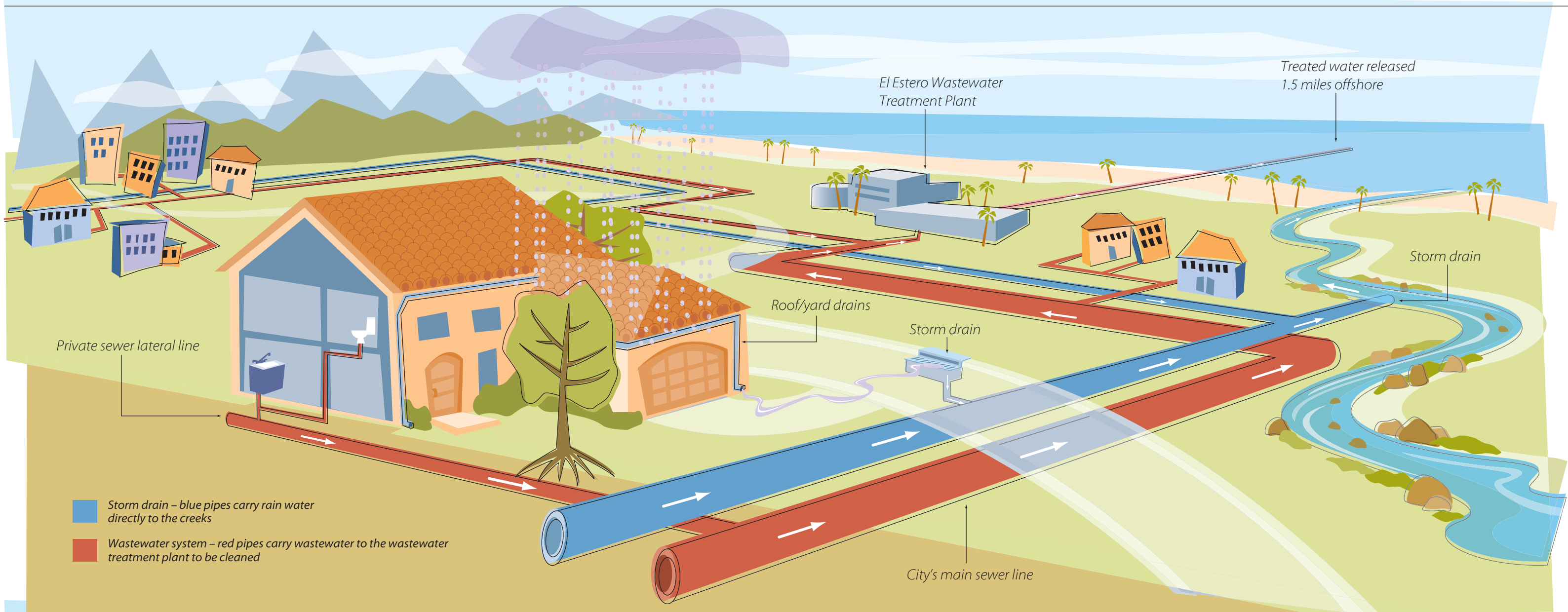


# Our Wastewater System Is Separate from the Storm Drain System



## How It Works

### Wastewater Collection System

Dirty water from indoor use such as, sinks, toilets and showers, leave homes and businesses through privately owned sewer lateral pipes. These lateral pipe lines connect with City's main sewer pipe lines.

### Wastewater Treatment System

The City's main sewer pipes bring wastewater to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. Here it is cleaned using physical and biological treatment processes. Cleaned water is released in the ocean 1.5 miles off-

shore and some is cleaned further and used as recycled water for irrigation.

### Ensuring Safety

Each day many specialized tests run before, during and after treatment to ensure the plant is working properly and the treated water meets EPA ocean swimming standards.

## Problems

### Storm water

Storm water entering the wastewater system through damaged sewer lateral pipes and connected roof/yard drains result in sewage overflows.

### Clogs

Grease, trash and roots cause blockages in sewer pipelines. Clogs in main pipes result in sewage overflows.

### Hazardous waste

Pouring chemicals down the drain can disrupt the biological processes at the wastewater treatment plant or can pass untreated to the environment.

### Costs

#### Your Home or Business

Property damage can result from sewage backups or damaged lateral lines leading to expensive cleanup and plumbing repairs.

### The Environment

Clogged sewers and storm water entering the wastewater system can lead to sewer overflows. As sewage overflows onto streets, it enters the storm drain system where the sewage is then carried to our local beaches, creating a health risk for swimmers, marine life – and causing beach closures.

### The City

Increased sewer blockages and overflows lead to excessive and costly maintenance and can result in severe fines from state and federal regulatory agencies.