

# State Water Resources Control Board

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**SAN DIEGO AGENCIES LAUDED FOR THEIR WORK TO FURTHER  
GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS' CLEAN BEACHES INITIATIVE**  
**"Clean Beach Partners" Contributed to Imperial Beach Monitoring Project**

**IMPERIAL BEACH** - The Vice Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board today praised local agencies for their collaborative efforts to improve beach water quality, made possible by a grant under Governor Gray Davis' Clean Beaches Initiative.

The City of Imperial Beach, the County of San Diego and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, working together, developed a project to help achieve the Governor's goal of significantly reducing beach postings and closures in California.

"These beach cleanup partners have a vested interest in reducing the health threat posed by polluted beaches and the economic vitality threatened by closures," said SWRCB Vice Chair Pete Silva. "We would like to see similar partnerships in all affected California coastal communities."

Last November, the SWRCB approved a \$750,000 grant to the City of Imperial Beach to fund a state-of-the-art coastal monitoring system developed by scientists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Scripps' coastal ocean dynamics applications radar (CODAR) system will have the capability to monitor the coast from the United States - Mexico border to Point Loma, and offshore to the Coronado Islands. Led by Scripps researchers, this project aims to reduce human exposure to beach contamination through real-time coastal monitoring, source identification, and improved management and regulation.

"This is an innovative approach to tracking and controlling beach pollution," said Silva. "Partnerships and projects like this will make our clean beach efforts successful."

The City of Coronado and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have all joined as project partners as well.

Southern California beaches attract 175 million visitors each year, and those visitors spend more than \$1.5 billion during their visits. On a typical summer day, some of the more popular beaches attract 75,000 people. When a beach is closed due to contamination, the economic effect can be devastating to local business owners.

Clean Beaches Initiative grants are funded by Proposition 13 (the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act of 2000), a \$1.97 billion bond program passed by California voters.

The City of Imperial Beach is working on funding for two additional project proposals for storm drain diversions, totaling an additional \$750,000.