



# Media Release

## State Water Board funds project to develop new portable instrumentation for microbial source tracking

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A \$1.3 million grant for a project to develop new portable instrumentation to track the source of microbes has received preliminary funding approval from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

Currently, bacterial pollution at beaches is measured by collecting samples and analyzing them at a laboratory, generating results in days, weeks, or longer. The grant to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will allow development of a new, highly portable digital instrument (quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction, or qPCR) to allow testing to occur in the field and provide real time test results. The new instrument will allow faster identification of sources of beach contamination, leading to more effective clean-up of bacterial pollution.

"This project will greatly enhance our ability to find and address bacterial contamination at all our beaches. We are very happy to support development of this new technology", said Elizabeth Haven, Deputy Director of DFA.

A total of \$1,300,985 in grant funds are approved for the Project.

The Clean Beaches Initiative program has funded over 100 projects along the coast. For more information on the CBI program, please visit the follow link at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/beaches/cbi\\_projects/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/cbi_projects/index.shtml)

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