



## CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

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#### WHERE IS THE CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

The Central Coast Region extends from Santa Clara County south to northern Ventura County. The Region has 378 miles of coastline, including Santa Cruz and the Monterey Peninsula, the agricultural Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys, and the Santa Barbara coastal plain. Tourism, power and oil production, agriculture and related food processing activities are the major industries. The Regional Board office is in San Luis Obispo.

#### KEY ISSUES IN REGION 3

In 1998, the Regional Board, with the State Attorney General and other agencies, settled with Unocal Corporation for environmental damage from leaking oil pipelines at two San Luis Obispo County locations - Avila Beach and Guadalupe Oil Field. Unocal paid nearly \$62 million in penalties and other assessments to fund natural resource restoration and water quality projects. Unocal also agreed to comply with the Regional Board's cleanup orders. Avila's Front Street area is cleaned, as are the highest risk areas in the Guadalupe Oil Field. Cleanup work on remaining areas in the oil field and in Avila continues.

Three power plants in the Region are significant issues with the use of marine water for cooling systems.

The Regional Board reached settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric for \$14.4 million for Clean Water Act violations at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Funds will benefit the nearby Morro Bay Estuary, State Mussel Watch Monitoring, a restoration and enhancement project in San Luis Obispo Creek, and the State Cleanup and Abatement Account. The Regional Board agreed on a multifaceted mitigation project to resolve permitting issues for continued Diablo dischargers. For the Duke Moss Landing Power Plant, the Regional Board ordered \$7 million in watershed improvements for permit mitigation.

These power plants are examples of how the Region's Watershed Branch focuses on integrating regulatory responsibilities, nonpoint source pollution control, and regional monitoring and planning. These efforts improve the Region's ability to identify and address high priority water quality issues with appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory tools.

#### WATER DATA

- 11,274 square miles of land
- 2,360 miles of streams
- 25,040 acres of lakes
- 378 miles of coastline

