

Draft 11/19/01

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Los Angeles County Coastal Features Avalon Beach Beach Postings and Closures

Summary of Proposed Action

Avalon Beach is located on Santa Catalina Island in Los Angeles County. This beach is proposed to be listed in the 2002 305(b) water quality assessment as not supporting (impaired) due to more than 10% of days per year having beach postings due to high bacterial indicator densities and due to two beach closures due to the discharge of raw sewage in the year 2000. The beneficial use affected by this impairment is water contact recreation (REC-1).

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Avalon Beach	Pollutants/Stressors	Beach Postings and Closures
Hydrologic Unit	406.40	Source(s)	Point and nonpoint sources
Total Waterbody Size	Unknown	TMDL Priority	Low
Size Affected	Unknown	TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	2011
Extent of Impairment	Entire beach	TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	2013

Watershed Characteristics

The Channel Islands within the Region's boundaries are Anacapa, San Nicolas, Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente Islands. Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands are part of the Channel Islands National Park. The waters within six nautical miles of Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands are designated a national marine sanctuary. The ocean waters adjacent to the islands (not the entire circumference of Santa Catalina however) were designated Areas of Special Biological Significance by the state of California. The west side of San Nicolas supports a large gull rookery and elephant seal breeding area. The U.S. Navy has facilities on San Nicolas (and a desalination plant) and San Clemente Islands with a small package treatment plant on the latter. The city of Avalon is located on Santa Catalina Island and also has a small treatment plant.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained.

Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)

The Basin Plan describes REC-1 as "Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs."

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The Regional Board has determined that if a beach monitoring location is posted by the local county health department due to high bacterial indicator densities more than 10% of days annually, the water contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use is considered impaired.

The Regional Board also identifies a beach as impaired if there is more than one beach closure per year and if there is a beach closure of greater than one week's duration.

Beneficial Uses Affected

- Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)

Data Assessment

Beginning in 1999, a new law requires public health officials in coastal counties to conduct weekly bacteriological testing for four bacterial indicators, between April 1 and October 31, at beaches visited annually by more than 50,000 people and at beaches with storm drains (including natural creeks, streams, and rivers that flow during the summer). The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) conducts routine surf zone sampling at five locations along Avalon Beach. These data and the beach posting decisions of the DHS were reviewed by the Regional Board and used to assess current condition of Avalon Beach.

Table 2. Summary of Data for Avalon Beach, Santa Catalina Island

	Closures	Postings
Dates of Sampling	2000	2000
Number of Days	1 (32 days); 1 (4 days)	67

Potential Sources

Point and nonpoint sources.

References

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter (2000)

State Water Resources Control Board Beach Closure database (2000)

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Castlerock Beach
Total Coliform**

Summary of Proposed Action

Castlerock Beach is located in Santa Monica Bay. This beach is proposed to be listed in the 2002 305(b) water quality assessment as not supporting (impaired) due to exceedance of the geometric mean and threshold objectives for total coliform. The beneficial use affected by this impairment is water contact recreation (REC-1).

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Castlerock Beach	Pollutants/Stressors	Total Coliform
Hydrologic Unit	405.13	Source(s)	Nonpoint source
Total Waterbody Size	Unknown	TMDL Priority	Analytical Unit 48
Size Affected	Unknown	TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	2000
Extent of Impairment	Mixing zone	TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	2002

Watershed Characteristics

The Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area (WMA), which encompasses an area of 414 square miles, is quite diverse. The Santa Monica Bay watershed contains approximately 55 miles of shoreline and many sandy beaches. Its borders reach from the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains on the north and from the Ventura-Los Angeles County line to downtown Los Angeles. From there it extends south and west across the Los Angeles plain to include the area east of Ballona Creek and north of the Baldwin Hills. South of Ballona Creek the natural drainage area is a narrow strip of wetlands between Playa del Rey and Palos Verdes. The WMA includes several watersheds the two largest being Malibu Creek to the north and Ballona Creek to the south. While the Malibu Creek area contains mostly undeveloped mountain areas, large acreage residential properties and many natural stream reaches, Ballona Creek is predominantly channelized, and highly developed with both residential and commercial properties.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained.

Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)

The Basin Plan describes REC-1 as "Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs."

The California Ocean Plan states that "samples of water from each sampling station shall have a density of total coliform organisms less than 1,000 per 100 ml; provided that not more than 20 percent of the samples at any sampling station, in any 30-day period, may exceed 1,000 per 100 ml, and provided further that no single sample when verified by a repeat sample taken within 48 hours shall exceed 10,000 per 100 ml."

Beneficial Uses Affected

- Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)

Data Assessment

Table 2. Summary of Coliform Data for Castlerock Beach (Mixing Zone)

	Total Coliform
Dates of Sampling	4/00-9/00
Number of Samples (n)	17
Minimum Data Value (MPN/100 ml)	1,000
Maximum Data Value (MPN/100 ml)	200,000
Geometric Mean Data Value (MPN/100 ml)	30,818
Arithmetic Mean Value (MPN/100 ml)	62,941
Standard Deviation (MPN/100 ml)	68,694
Number (Percent) above Objective	13 (76%)

Potential Sources

Nonpoint sources.

References

Region 4 1994 Basin Plan

California Ocean Plan (1997)

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter (2000)

City of Los Angeles (2001) "Low Flow Diversion of Dry-Weather Runoff." Report to City Council dated January 11, 2001.