

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD APPROVES \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S "THREATENED" BEACHES *Grants to Four California Communities from Proposition 13 Funds*

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today announced four California communities will receive grants totaling \$2 million, as part of the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative.

At its meeting yesterday, the Board approved grants to the County of Sonoma, the City of Encinitas, the City of Santa Monica and the City of Santa Cruz, for various projects will help combat the problem of contaminated ocean water, which threatens California's world-renowned beaches.

These 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 voters to fund projects to protect the State's waterways.

"The public health and economic threat to our beaches posed by polluted runoff is real," said State Water Resources Control Board Chair Art Baggett. "These grants help state and local agencies address contamination, making our beaches safer, and ensuring the economic vitality of coastal communities."

Southern California beaches attract 175 million visitors each year, who 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.

The following grants were approved today:

- **County of Sonoma, \$220,000** -- Bodega Bay-Campbell Cove tidal circulation study, water quality testing, and source abatement measures (*Phase 1*).

Bodega Bay Campbell Cove is located near the western jetty leading into Bodega harbor. There are about 71,00 visitors to the beach annually. During April 1-Oct. 21, 2000 the beach was closed 41 days because of bacterial pollution from an unknown source. This grant will allow the county to a conduct tidal circulation study and water quality testing to determine potential sources and pathways of contamination.

- **City of Encinitas, (\$814,000)** -- Moonlight Beach Urban Runoff Treatment Facility.

Moonlight State Beach is one of north San Diego County's most used beaches with 2.68 million visitors each year. In 2000, there were more than 90 days when the beaches were closed because of bacterial contamination. A source of the bacteria is urban runoff that flows into storm drains that empty into Cottonwood Creek and eventually to Moonlight State Beach. This grant will allow the city to install a water disinfectant facility that would divert and treat 85 percent of the dry weather flow in Cottonwood Creek and discharge back into the creek downstream of the intake.

- **City of Santa Monica, (\$350,000)** -- Santa Monica Pier project to reduce bacterial contamination at Santa Monica Bay.

About 3 million people visit this beach annually. In 2001 the beach was posted with signs warning beach goers of bacterial pollution. This grant will make improvements to the Pier (surrounded by the Bay) and reduce sources of bacterial contamination.

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- City of Santa Cruz (\$548,000) -- Sanitary Sewer Infiltration/Exfiltration Evaluation and Repair (Phase 1).

The San Lorenzo River winds through the City and empties into the Pacific Ocean between Main and Seabright Beaches. There are about 3 million visitors to these beaches annually. The mouth of the San Lorenzo River is continuously posted as unsafe for water body contact. The Main and Cowell Beaches were closed 33 days in the last three years. This grant will identify leaks in the sewer system adjacent to the beaches using a television-video survey. Once located, the sewers will be repaired. The second phase of this project will be approved later and will include planning, designing and constructing storm drain diversions to the sanitary sewer system.

The Clean Beaches Initiative was one of Governor Davis' key environmental projects included in the Governor's 2001-2002 Budget signed last July. The Budget provides \$35 million for coastal cleanup projects throughout the state and reduction of the number of beach closure days caused by nonpoint source pollution. (These funds were allocated from Proposition 13 bond monies.)

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