

Water Quality Report Card

Indicator Bacteria in Ventura County Beaches

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: Rec-1

Implemented Through: MS4 Permit, WDRs or waivers of WDRs, Nonpoint Source Implementation and Enforcement Policy

Effective Date: Not applicable

Attainment Date: December 2019 or June 2020

STATUS Conditions Improving

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source Legacy

Pollutant Source: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, Urban Runoff, Non-Point Source Runoff, Recreation and Tourism (non-boating), Naturally Occurring

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

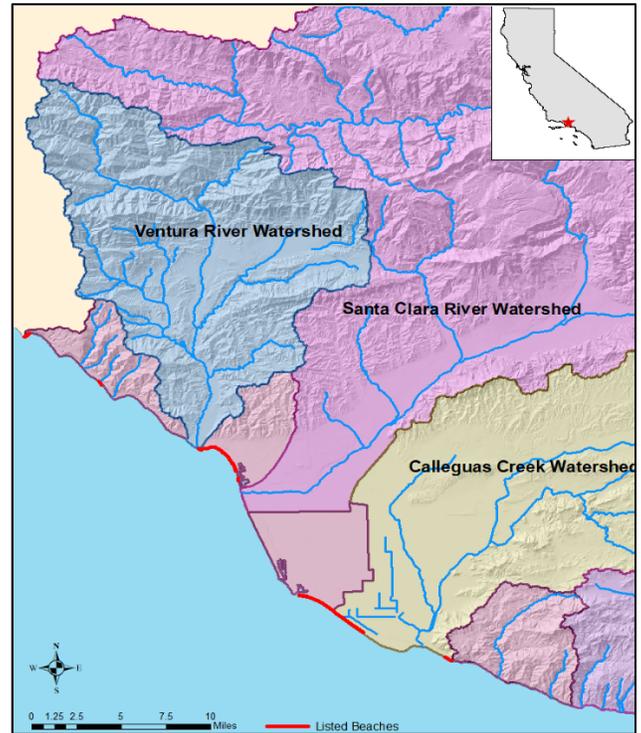
Ventura County has some of the most pristine beaches in Southern California. However, eight of these beaches have had poor water quality due to high levels of indicator bacteria, impairing water contact recreation such as swimming. Most of the beaches are in dense urban or residential areas, except for Point Mugu, which is mostly in open space.

A water quality action plan called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will need to be developed for these beaches. Point Mugu and Port Hueneme Beaches had a small number of exceedances while others, like Peninsula Beach and Surfer's Point, have had a greater number, with wetter years being more problematic for certain beaches. The available data show that water quality has improved for seven of the beaches, and they are now meeting water contact recreation standards. A TMDL for Rincon Beach may not be needed because discharges from septic systems near the beach are the sole source of the pollution. It is expected that Rincon Beach will meet water quality standards once these discharges fully comply with the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Policy. According to the OWTS Policy, any discharging septic system within 600 feet of Rincon Beach is required to connect to a sanitary sewer system by December 2019, or to have Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) by June 2020. Only three OWTS near Rincon Beach are currently discharging, two of which are in the process of connecting to the local sanitary sewer system.

Water Quality Outcomes

- *Ambient water quality has improved for indicator bacteria since the beaches were listed as impaired for water contact recreation.*
- *Responsible parties have implemented actions to address point and non-point source loading including: limiting fish cleaning near beaches, installing pet waste dispensers, increasing the number of trashcans with lids, increasing outreach, education, and signage, and increasing focus of Illicit Connection/Illicit Discharge programs.*
- *Homes with septic discharges impacting Rincon have been addressed by connecting to local sanitary sewers.*

Ventura County Watersheds



Water Quality

