



HEAL THE OCEAN

# South Coast Beach Communities Septic to Sewer Project

AN UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL BOARD  
ON THE RINCON PROJECT

## Project Background

- Response to public concern over pollution from septic systems at County beaches.
- Sponsored and supported by Heal the Ocean at every step of the process, in addition to critical funding from our organization.
- Funded by homeowners, Heal the Ocean, CSD, SWRCB Clean Beaches Initiative, and State funding through the County of Santa Barbara EHS.



## Sandyland & Sand Point

- **February 2012:** Construction starts on septic to sewer conversion for Sandyland & Sand Point.
- **May 2012:** Construction completed, removing 80 septic systems from popular Carpinteria area beaches.
- **...And not a minute too soon!**

## Sand Point & Sandyland

- **April 2012:** Construction starts on septic to sewer conversion for Sand Point & Sandyland.
- **May 2012:** Construction completed, removing 80 septic systems from popular Carpinteria beaches.
- **...And not a minute too soon!**

*Sand Point & Sandyland at King Tide, February 2014*

Photo © Bill Dewey











## Rincon Timeline

- **Pre-August 1998:** Surfers circulate 3,500 name petition.
- **October 1998:** DNA testing of Rincon Lagoon by HTO and County.
- **December 1998:** County tests discover septic effluent in leaching zone of the beach.
- **September 2001:** \$425k SWRCB grant awarded for Project EIR.
- **March 2004:** CSD certifies EIR.
- **October 2005:** RWQCB passes resolution supporting Rincon Project.
- **July 2006:** HTO sponsored Supplemental EIR work completed.

## Rincon Timeline

- **September 2007:** \$2.1 million Clean Beaches Initiative grant awarded.
- **October 2007:** Assessment district vote announced with 65.6% voting for and 34.4% voting against.
- **December 2007:** RWQCB passes Resolution of Appreciation to all parties involved in the Project.
- **January 2008:** 36% of homeowners vote against annexation resulting in a confirmation election.
- **April 2008:** Results of confirmation election challenged.
- **July 2008:** Case goes to trial with both sides ultimately settling and giving project the green light.

## Rincon Timeline

**...and after fifteen years:**

**August 2013:** CSD awards construction bid.

**September 2013:** Construction begins!

## September 2013: Construction Begins!



Rincon Project  
Groundbreaking  
Ceremony

*Photo © Brandon  
Aroyan*

## Latest on Rincon

- **July 2014:** Santa Barbara County side of Rincon FINISHED.
- **August 2014:** Ventura County side of Rincon expected to be FINISHED.



*CSD General  
Manager Craig  
Murray showing  
archaeological  
sifting boxes.*



*This picture, taken in the  
construction yard of the Rincon  
project, now hangs on Hillary's  
door.*



## Heal the Ocean's Legacy to the County



With the help of homeowners, CSD, SWRCB, EHS , legislators, surfers, and many more...

**Santa Barbara County now has seven miles of septic free coastline!**

## Questions?



*Photo © Brandon Aroyan*