

State Water Resources Control Board

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SAN MATEO COUNTY RECEIVES \$75,000 GRANT FOR NEXT PHASE OF WATERSHED CLEANUP PROJECT

Sacramento - The State Water Resources Control Board announced today that it has awarded San Mateo County a Clean Beaches Initiative grant of \$75,000, to complete a \$250,000 watershed project designed to reduce bacterial contamination of San Mateo County beaches.

The funding will be used by the County to track sources of fecal bacteria, and design abatement measures to reduce the health hazard posed by the bacteria found in human and animal feces. The first phase of the project helped to reduce the postings and closures at Half Moon Bay State Beach by mapping, tracking, and eliminating sources of bacteria from the Pillarcitos watershed. This phase of the project will focus on contaminated runoff from the Gazos Creek watershed. Bacteria and contaminants carried by these creeks into the ocean have resulted in postings and closures of adjacent beaches at least annually for decades.

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."

On a typical summer day, some of the more popular beaches in California attract 75,000 people. Health hazards from bacteria contamination can affect swimmers, surfers, and beach goers. When a beach is closed due to contamination, the economic effect can be devastating to local business owners.

The Clean Beaches Initiative provides \$35 million for coastal cleanup projects throughout the state. These funds were allocated from Proposition 13 bond monies and not from the state's General Fund.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>