



Media Release

SF Regional Water Board Votes to Remove Muir Beach from Federal Impaired Waterway List

For Immediate Release
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Bacteria readings at the popular Muir Beach have improved enough over the past several years that the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board has recommended it be removed from a list of impaired waterways.

“This is the kind of positive water quality result the Regional Water Board strives for every day,” said Regional Water Board Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe. “The public can once again enjoy Muir Beach without the heightened risk of bacteria-borne illness.”

The beach has been on the federal Clean Water Act section 303d list of impaired waters since 2006, because bacteria readings at the beach from samples collected from 2003 to 2005 were high enough to make contact recreation such as swimming or surfing a health risk.

Several potential sources of the bacteria were identified, including septic systems, horse facilities and riding trails, wildlife and stormwater runoff.

Since the original listing, there have been improvements in the watershed, including an extensive restoration project near the mouth of Redwood Creek, the main tributary to Muir Beach. These restoration efforts have coincided with a substantial decrease in indicator bacteria discharges to Redwood Creek and ultimately Muir Beach.

Among the improvements brought about by the restoration are:

- limiting human and animal (e.g., pet, wildlife, and horse) access to Redwood Creek,
- creating natural vegetated buffers along the creek that act as bacteria filters, and
- re-locating the creek channel away from residential areas where potentially faulty septic systems are located.

Water samples taken between 2005 and 2013 show water quality goals for contact recreation have been met, leading the Regional Water Board to approve a resolution May 14 to remove Muir Beach from the impaired waterways list.

The adopted resolution to delist Muir Beach must be reviewed and approved by the State Water Board and USEPA before it becomes effective.



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For more information on the Muir Beach delisting resolution visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/Muir/Muir%20Beach%20Signed%20Final%20Resolution%20-%205-14.pdf

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