
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Water Board Investigating Sewage Spill in Laguna Beach, CA

December 3, 2019

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SAN DIEGO – On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, raw sewage from a sewer main leak in the City of Laguna Beach spilled into Aliso Creek and the Pacific Ocean. The raw sewage impacted beaches in the vicinity and was reported to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) as well as in many local news sources:

- Orange County Register: <https://www.ocregister.com/2019/11/28/the-spill-of-4-million-gallons-of-raw-sewage-prompts-closure-of-south-o-c-ocean-and-bay-areas/>
- Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-11-29/4-million-gallon-sewage-spill-prompts-closure-of-bay-and-ocean-water-from-crystal-cove-to-dana-point>
- KTLA Channel 5: <https://ktla.com/2019/11/28/raw-sewage-spill-in-laguna-beach-shuts-down-several-beaches-over-thanksgiving-weekend/>
- Preliminary Report to Office of Emergency Services: <https://w3.calema.ca.gov/operational/malhaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/eb44d2d161031fa1882584c0000691a9?OpenDocument>
- Orange County Beach Closure Information: <https://ocbeachinfo.com/>

South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the City of Laguna Beach are responding to the sewage spill, which was stopped on Friday, November 29. The San Diego Water Board staff is in contact with these agencies and is actively investigating to determine the cause, extent of impacts to water quality, and compliance with State and federal laws. Existing State regulations require the initial spill report to be certified within 15 days and a technical report be provided within 45 days. The San Diego Water Board will review these required reports prior to making any determination to take further action.