

**Clean Beaches Initiative  
Urban Runoff/Water Quality Improvement Projects  
Annual Summary 2004**

**City: City of Pacific Grove**

**Project Name: Dry Weather Urban Runoff Diversion Project**



**Project Description/Purpose:** The City is located on the Monterey peninsula, and is surrounded by the Monterey Bay (Bay) National Marine Sanctuary, a pristine and beautiful body of water that has been designated by the State of California as an Area of Special Biological Significance. The City is one of northern California's oldest coastal communities, with sanitary sewer and storm water collection systems that were designed decades ago to discharge directly into the Bay. Over the years, improvements to the sanitary sewer system have eliminated direct discharges into the Bay; the City's raw sewage is now conveyed to a regional wastewater treatment facility. Nevertheless, over one-half of the City's surface water runoff drains northeast towards Lovers Point

Park or Ocean View Boulevard with the storm drain outlets still flowing directly into the Bay. The table below shows the postings and closures at Lover's Point Beach over the past five years:

Lover's Point/Ocean View Blvd.	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Beach Postings, days	13	10	13	1	0
Beach Closures, days	7	10	23	21	1

The City is in the process of diverting its storm drain outlets in an effort to reduce beach postings due to high coliform levels from nonpoint sources and beach closures due to sewage spills. Completion of the Project will, during the months of April through October, prevent urban runoff and sewage system overflows from discharging to Lover's Point Beach and shoreline waters by diverting the flow to the sanitary sewer. Diverting urban runoff and sewage overflows should reduce or eliminate dry weather beach warnings and closures and protect public health.

The City received Proposition 13 Clean Beaches Initiative funding in 2001 to divert dry weather urban runoff into the sanitary sewer system by installing separate storm water infrastructure that redirects low flow urban runoff from approximately 500 acres.

**Other Public Agency/Private Partners:** State of California Water Resources Control Board, City of Pacific Grove, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency

**Project Cost:** \$630,000      **CBI Funding:** \$500,000

**Project Funding Sources:** City of Pacific Grove, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

**Project Status:** Construction Complete. Final Report will be submitted to SWRCB by December 31, 2004.

**Project Outcomes/Effectiveness/Benefits:** The City has been continuously monitoring and sampling the diverted urban runoff since activation. Although not final, the data (see \*\* below) illustrate that the project has achieved the goals and standards set prior to its implementation. It is important to note that that samples collected at the diversion to the sanitary sewer exceeded State standards for indicator bacteria, which could have contributed to a closure of the corresponding beach area.

\*\* (Data for 17 weeks of water diverted from Lovers Point has consistently shown total coliform concentrations of >24,192 MPN/100ml. The lowest *E. coli* concentration was 5,172 MPN/100ml and the average was 16,381 MPN/100ml. The lowest Enterococcus concentration was 689 MPN/100ml and the average was 13,005 MPN/100ml. Just one ocean sample exceeded the AB411 criteria for *E. coli*. with a value of 504 MPN/100ml.)

The Pacific Grove Storm Drain Diversion Project is also offering additional benefits to the City: The diversion of sewage spills and construction runoff, and providing a vehicle to pinpoint sources of over-watering. The Diversion Project is undoubtedly a valuable addition in the effort to improve the water quality in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and keeping the public safe.