

A coastal scene with a sandy beach, blue ocean, and a small deer walking on the sand. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

# California Ocean Plan, Areas of Special Biological Significance

**Dominic Gregorio, State Water Resources Control  
Board, Division of Water Quality, August 31, 2005**

# 2001 California Ocean Plan

- Waste discharges to ASBS are prohibited
- Discharges must be kept at a sufficient distance from ASBS to assure maintenance of natural water quality
- Regional Boards may certify, or approve by permit, temporary short-term discharges due to maintenance and repair activities

# Ocean Plan Exceptions

- **Public interest must be served**
- **Must not compromise beneficial uses**
- **CEQA, with strict mitigation conditions**
- **Gateway to a permit**

# 2005 Ocean Plan

## ASBS and Exception Amendments

- Recognized classification of ASBS as State Water Quality Protection Areas (SWQPA's)
- Renamed certain ASBS consistent with other MMAs
- Added an appendix which lists exceptions
- Exceptions will be reviewed during the Ocean Plan Triennial Review



# California Ocean Plan Exceptions

- Shelter Cove treated wastewater, Kings Range ASBS
- Carmel/Pebble Beach treated wastewater, Carmel Bay ASBS
- U.S. Navy desal brine, San Nicolas Island ASBS
- U.S. Navy treated wastewater, San Clemente Island ASBS
- UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography, marine lab, aquarium and storm water, San Diego-Scripps ASBS

# Scripps Exception Water Quality Committee

Natural water quality will be defined, based on a review of the monitoring data, by an advisory committee...composed of State and Regional Board staff, a representative from UCSD/SIO, and two scientists selected by Regional Board staff from some academic organizations other than UCSD/SIO. At a minimum the advisory committee must meet annually ... and to advise the Regional Board whether or not natural water quality is being altered in the ASBS as a result of UCSD/SIO...

First meeting scheduled for October 25, 2005

# Frequently Asked Question

- How do ASBS fit within State's system of Marine Managed Area's (MMA's) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)?

ASBS are a subset of SWQPAs, one type of MMA, and are designated by the State Water Board.

# Frequently Asked Question

- Does the Board want to disrupt the natural flow of precipitation by prohibiting runoff?

No. We only regulate the wastes (pollutants) in runoff, not clean rain water.



# Frequently Asked Question

- **How clean is clean?**

**Receiving water should be our guide.**

**We probably will never get to zero in the near future (detection limits and technology are just two reasons), but that is no reason not to begin to try to reduce wastes.**

# Status - Santa Catalina Island USC Wrigley Institute Exception

- Waste seawater and storm water
- Application submitted to LA Regional Board
- State and Regional Board staff review under way
- State Bd. Staff - Rough Draft Initial Study, meeting held with Regional Bd. Staff, USC and environmental group representatives

# US Navy Islands

- Exceptions requested
- Staff proposed approach: re-opening existing exceptions for point sources to include storm water and nonpoint sources
- San Clemente Island, WWTP, increased flows
- San Nicolas Island, desal brine, increased flows

# Staff Proposal – certain point sources to be phased out

- Sewage, US Fish and Wildlife Service at Farallon Islands (to be replaced by land disposal)
- Treated sewage, Redwood National Park at Requa (new sewage plant inland)
- Trinidad Pier Public Fish Cleaning Station (will work with discharger through the planning process)

# Staff Proposal: Marine Labs - Individual exceptions ....to include associated storm water

- UCD Bodega Marine Lab
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- SU Hopkins Marine Station
- HSU Telonicher Marine Lab

# Staff proposal: storm water & nonpoint sources general exception

- Coverage under an NPDES permit, WDR, or Conditional Waiver of WDR
- Prohibition of dry weather (non storm related) flows from outfalls
- Control of wet weather flows via an accelerated BMP/iterative process
- Monitoring to ensure that natural water quality and other beneficial uses are protected



# Pre-exception Monitoring

- Selected Ocean Plan and other likely constituents
- Encourage groups to work cooperatively
- Intertidal and subtidal surveys, collaboration with ongoing research and existing programs is encouraged

# Monitoring...

- **Effluent**
- **Receiving water and sediment**
- **Marine Biotic Community**
- **“Mussel watch” for bioaccumulative constituents**
- **Allowance for regional monitoring**

# Other runoff/activities to be addressed, with mitigation

- Agricultural discharges during storms
- Grazing discharges during storms
- Seeps associated with irrigation or on-site septic systems
- Mooring fields, runoff from piers, and related marine operations
- Small storm drains from homes

# More Frequently Asked Questions

- How will individual homeowners be regulated?
- Are we going to regulate natural streams?
- Why not divert storm water?
- Will there be a sunset clause proposed in a general exception?