



Media Release

State Water Board funds project to improve water quality at Capitola Beach

For Immediate Release
August 6, 2013

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A \$1.56 million grant for a project to improve water quality at Capitola Beach has received a preliminary funding approval from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

The grant to the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District will fund part of a \$6.2 million project to relocate the Noble Gulch Sewer Trunk Line, which is believed to be the cause of human bacteria contamination at Capitola Beach. The remainder of the project money will come from Santa Cruz County.

Capitola Beach is a priority beach for the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program due to its periodic poor water quality, and it has been previously listed as a "Beach Bummer" in Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card.

The Noble Gulch Trunk Line is a major sewer line serving a large portion of the City of Capitola and the unincorporated areas to the north and east. Up to 900,000 gallons per day flow into the sewer line toward the Capitola Pump Station. Past studies have shown that leakage from the line is a likely source for human bacteria contamination to Noble Gulch and the Soquel Lagoon, which drains to Capitola Beach. The relocation of this sewer line will help control a bacteria source that contributes to the contamination problem at Capitola Beach.

"This project will improve water quality at a popular beach, and will assist in compliance with meeting bacterial standards for public health protection", said Elizabeth Haven, Deputy Director of DFA.

A total of \$1,559,016 in grant funds are approved for the Project. Santa Cruz County will provide 75 percent matching funds from its Capital Improvement Program. The total cost of the project is \$6,237,013.

The Clean Beaches Initiative program has funded over 100 projects along the coast. For more information on the CBI program, please visit the follow link at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/cbi_projects/index.shtml

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