



Media Release

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Beach Water Quality Monitoring in South Orange County Enhanced *San Diego Water Board Action Unifies Multiple Testing Efforts into One*

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Beach water quality testing in south Orange County should improve, following a San Diego Regional Water Quality Board (San Diego Water Board) action to increase efficiency and reduce duplicative monitoring by multiple agencies.

The San Diego Water Board on Thursday adopted two Orders significantly modifying and improving the effectiveness of beach water quality monitoring requirements in two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Aliso Creek and San Juan Creek Ocean Outfalls.

The modifications initiate a unified beach water quality monitoring and assessment program in South Orange County, which will replace existing routine beach water quality monitoring programs conducted by SOCWA and other agencies.

The unified program is more efficient for participating agencies because technical resources, trained personnel, and associated costs in the collection and interpretation of beach water quality monitoring data will be shared. The unified program also meets or exceeds current regulatory requirements for beach water quality monitoring. The results of the beach water quality testing program is intended to warn and protect the health of swimmers, surfers, and others who use south Orange County beach waters for water contact recreational activities.

By adopting these Orders, the San Diego Water Board continues to demonstrate its commitment to ensure that monitoring and assessment programs in the same watershed, the same water body, and the same types of water bodies are coordinated and produce comparable and useful results, consistent with the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision strategy document.

The San Diego Water Board convened a workgroup that included representatives of the public agencies that currently conduct almost all of the beach water quality monitoring in south Orange County as well as other interested citizen groups. The workgroup developed the unified regional beach water quality monitoring and assessment program for South Orange County that is authorized in the two Orders.

Additional information regarding the two draft Orders can be obtained on the San Diego Water Board website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2014/Dec/Dec11.shtml





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Additional information on the implementation of the unified beach water quality monitoring and assessment program in south Orange County can be obtained on the San Diego Water Board website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/swamp/index.shtml

For more information about the San Diego Water Board visit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>