

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2001

SWRCB 01-027

Contact: Myrlys L. Stockdale

Robert Miller

916-341-5254

STATE WATER BOARD OKAYS \$500,000 GRANT FOR CATALINA ISLAND BEACH POLLUTION STUDY

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today approved a \$500,000 grant to the City of Avalon on Catalina Island for a study that will identify beach pollution sources and determine contamination pathways.

“The beaches of Catalina Island have long been part of the social, aesthetic and economic life of California’s coastal areas,” said Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., State Water Resources Control Board chairman. “We are pleased to be able to give this grant money to the City of Avalon where it will be used to help clean our beaches.”

More than 1 million visit the beaches in Avalon each year. During the 2000 monitoring period (April 1 through Oct 31), at least one testing station was posted with signs warning of bacterial contamination for 21 weeks out of the 31-week period.

With the grant funding, the City is proposing to conduct circulation and microbiological studies to determine where the pollution is coming from and how it is making its way to the coastal waters.

When the sources have been identified, the City will then consider options to stop the pollution and choose preferred solutions. Halting the pollution may include enforcement actions against polluters or measures to structurally alter pollution pathways.

The Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 set aside more than \$90 million for coastal nonpoint source pollution control projects. Subsequent budget acts dedicated about \$30 million for projects designed to reduce beach contamination.

-30-