

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD OKs \$750,000 GRANT TO CONTROL POLLUTED RUNOFF AT DOHENY STATE BEACH

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today approved a \$750,000 grant for the City of Dana Point to divert polluted runoff into the City’s sanitary sewer system and away from Doheny State Beach.

“The social, aesthetic and economic effects of beach closures can seriously damage California’s coastal areas,” said Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board. “We are pleased to be able to give this grant money to Dana Point where it will be used to help clean our beaches.”

The beach is one of the most heavily used in the State of California, with more than 1.2 million visitors a year. In 2000, there were warning signs for bacterial contamination posted at the beach for 323 days (88 percent of the year).

The source of the beach contamination is urban runoff that enters storm drains and eventually reaches San Juan Creek, ultimately flowing onto Doheny State Beach. With this “Clean Beaches Grant,” the City is proposing to divert the urban runoff into the sanitary sewer system, where the runoff will be treated before being released.

Additionally, a device will be installed at the diversion location to remove oil, grease sediment and trash, all of which can harbor and contribute to bacterial pollution.

The Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 set aside more than \$31 million for coastal nonpoint source pollution control projects. The Act provided funding for projects that restore and protect the water quality and environment of California’s coastal waters.

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