

State Water Resources Control Board

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Contact: Fred Zinchiack
916-341-5254

STATE WATER BOARD APPROVES \$653,000 GRANT TO OVERHAUL REFUGIO STATE BEACH SEPTIC SYSTEM

Sacramento - The State Water Resources Control Board approved today a Clean Beaches Initiative grant of \$653,000 to replace the aging septic system at Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County.

The funding will complete the second phase of an ongoing project managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). The funds are being used to remove and replace an outdated restroom facility and to replace the existing undersized septic system. Additionally, the CDPR will replace an existing septic tank for the Entrance Station with a new 1,000-gallon septic tank and leach field. The updated septic retrofits will prevent wastewater discharges and runoff pollution from impacting Refugio Beach.

Clean Beaches Initiative grants are funded by Proposition 13 (the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act of 2000), a \$1.97 billion bond program passed by voters to fund projects to protect the State's waterways.

"The public health and economic threat to our beaches posed by polluted runoff is real," said State Water Resources Control Board Chair Art Baggett. "These grants help state and local agencies address contamination, making our beaches safer, and ensuring the economic vitality of coastal communities."

On a typical summer day, some of the more popular beaches in California attract 75,000 people. Health hazards from bacteria contamination can affect swimmers, surfers, and beach goers. When a beach is closed due to contamination, the economic effect can be devastating to local business owners.

The Clean Beaches Initiative provides \$35 million for coastal cleanup projects throughout the state, to alleviate the health hazards and beach postings and closures caused by nonpoint source pollution. Clean Beaches funds are allocated from Proposition 13 bond monies and not from the state's General Fund.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>