

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

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**SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER BOARD GARNERS  
PRESTIGIOUS U.S. EPA AWARD**

San Diego- The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has received the prestigious 2004 Environmental Award from the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) at a ceremony in San Francisco on April 20th.

The San Diego Regional Water Board, part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), was recognized by the U.S. EPA for outstanding work in establishing a strong, comprehensive, and effective regulatory program to control stormwater runoff from industrial and construction activities and facilities. Runoff from these activities carries debris, bacteria, contaminants, and sediments into storm drains, streams, creeks and the ocean.

The Regional Board established and coordinated a dual state and local regulatory system, which resulted in shared compliance and enforcement activities. The sharing of regulatory duties allows oversight agencies to focus their resources on specific geographic areas with numerous construction sites and high concentrations of industrial facilities.

John H. Minan, Chairman of the Regional Board and Professor of Law at the University of San Diego said, "We accept this prestigious award cognizant of the fact that the Regional Board's efforts toward protecting and improving water quality in our region would not be possible without the public's unwavering support. We also recognize that continued vigilance in protecting water quality is necessary. With this in mind, the Regional Board hopes that the past success on which this award is based is simply the prologue to continued future success in our region."

Coastal water quality has improved dramatically with the implementation of the municipal stormwater programs and with the Regional Board's aggressive efforts to reduce the number and volume of sewage discharges to coastal waters.

John Robertus, Executive Officer of the Regional Board said, "After a decade of extensive efforts by the San Diego Regional Board, we are now seeing similar efforts by some cities, counties, industrial and construction businesses, and other dischargers, to find and abate pollution sources. All of us in the San Diego Region are in this together - to successfully reduce pollution from sewage spills and urban runoff. We really appreciate this recognition by the USEPA."

The San Diego Regional Board is the State of California agency responsible for water quality for San Diego County and parts of Orange and Riverside Counties. The award will be presented at the U.S. EPA Regional headquarters in San Francisco. The Environmental Award program provides an opportunity for the U.S. EPA to recognize individuals and groups outside of the EPA who are working to protect public health and the environment.