



Media Release

State Water Board funds new research on microbial source tracking markers

For Immediate Release
August 6, 2013

Contact: Tim Moran
Phone: 916-327-8239

A \$1.4 million grant to conduct research on the aging/decay of human fecal markers to track the source of microbe contamination has received preliminary funding approval from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

Researchers have recently been developing measurement tools to determine the source of bacterial contamination at beaches. The tools involve looking at DNA-based fecal markers that identify the host, such as human, dog, bird, etc. The grant to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) will study how fecal markers change in freshwater, ocean water, and beach sands/sediments as the feces age. This information will help determine causes of beach contamination and its associated public health risk. The study will assist beach managers in developing strategies to clean up beaches with bacterial contamination.

"This project will fill an information gap regarding sources of bacteria causing beach contamination, and will therefore assist our efforts to protect public health for those recreating at the beach", said Elizabeth Haven, Deputy Director of DFA.

A total of \$1,402,806 in grant funds are approved for the project.

The Clean Beaches Initiative program has funded over 100 projects along the coast. For more information on the CBI program, please visit the follow link at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/beaches/cbi_projects/index.shtml

The State Water Boards are now on Twitter! Follow us at: <https://twitter.com/h2boardsnews>

