

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD LAUDS ENCINITAS FOR NEW URBAN RUNOFF TREATMENT FACILITY

Environmental Project Part of Governor's Clean Beach Program

ENCINITAS - The state's key water regulatory agency joined forces with officials from this San Diego-area community this afternoon to unveil a new urban runoff treatment facility at Moonlight State Beach. Pete Silva, Vice Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, participated the afternoon ceremony with Encinitas Mayor Christy Guerin and other Southern California officials associated with the new facility.

The facility is one of nearly three dozen projects funded over the last year under the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative. The \$814,000 facility uses filtration and ultraviolet rays to destroy bacteria that have contributed to numerous beach postings at this popular coastal area over the last several years. The system began operation earlier this month.

Money for the new system was provided through the State Water Board, which administers funding of the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative. Under this initiative, \$32 million in Proposition 13 grants were earmarked specifically to assist coastal communities improve beach water quality. To date, \$17.4 million has been allocated to 35 projects in California.

The new system's treatment process diverts and treats a portion of the flow in Cottonwood Creek. Treatment involves charcoal and gravel filtration followed by ultraviolet radiation to destroy bacteria in the Creek. After treatment, the creek flow will be discharged back into the creek downstream of the intake.

"This urban runoff system is symbolic of the Governor's efforts to protect our state's majestic beaches," Silva said. "Beach pollution not only significantly impacts our local economies when beaches must be closed, but poses health risks for beach-goers and for wildlife. We applaud local officials for getting this treatment system online, and protecting this vital stretch of our coast."

Said Encinitas Mayor Guerin: "The City of Encinitas is extremely proud to be the leaders in environmental protection of our valuable coastline. We are very grateful to the State of California and the funding from the Governor's Clean Beaches Initiative."

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