

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2004
SWRCB 04-010

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STATE WATER BOARD AWARDS \$565,000 TO SEASIDE TO CURB BEACH POLLUTION

Sacramento - The State Water Resources Control Board has approved a \$565,000 grant to help keep urban runoff from polluting and causing closure of Seaside beach. The funds will be formally presented at a ceremony at 10 a.m., on November 9, at Seaside Beach near Monterey.

"The Clean Beaches Initiative finances projects which provide long-term, sustainable protection of our beach water quality. The projects use construction of runoff diversion systems, repair of existing systems and treatment technologies to reduce bacterial contamination in urban runoff and keep our beaches open," observed Terry Tamminen, Secretary for the California Environmental Protection and a strong proponent of the Clean Beaches Initiative.

The grant, to the City's Public Works Department, will divert urban runoff from the Bay Street Outfall to an adjacent sewage system pump station, where it will be treated to remove contaminants. The project, due for completion in December 2005, will construct pipes that divert about 900 gallons of water per minute flowing in storm drains during dry weather to the sanitary sewer for treatment.

"Flows in storm drains, when there is no storm, often carry bacteria and other contaminants which cause the closure of beaches," said Gary Carlton, member of the State Water Resources Control Board. "The Water Boards are pleased to provide this funding to the City of Seaside and to work toward improving coastal water quality. It benefits everyone," said Carlton.

"Our staff and the Regional Water Board continue to enthusiastically support these Clean Beaches Initiative projects. This project is expected to greatly reduce bacterial contamination of the Monterey State Beach. We salute the City of Seaside for its diligent efforts to improve the quality of our beaches," added Jeffrey Young, Chair of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The \$565,000 grant, which goes to Seaside's Public Works Department, is funded through the Clean Beaches Initiative, part of Proposition 40, The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. Passed by voters, the \$2.6 billion bond program funds projects that protect the State's waterways, beaches, and drinking water. Proposition funds are not part of the State's General Fund.

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Facts About CLEAN BEACHES

- Monterey is a popular beach destination. California beachgoers contribute more than \$60 billion to California's economy in a single year.
- Monterey County experiences a significant number of beach closures due to high concentrations of indicator bacteria.
- Urban runoff contains bacteria-laden animal waste, lawn & garden fertilizers, gas & oil from cars, and plastic trash.
- 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.
- Diverting urban runoff to a wastewater treatment plant will help prevent this contamination.

Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program

The California Water Boards have been tasked with the distribution of funds for the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program. The Budget Act of 2001 allocated \$32.3 million of Proposition 13 funds to implement projects to prevent bacterial contamination from causing the closure of California beaches. To further the effort, \$46 million from Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 was appropriated to help organizations – local, public, and non-profit – implement projects that assist in coastal water quality protection.

Clean Beaches funding is used for the following types of projects:

- Diverting or treating urban runoff.
- Implementing Best Management Practices to reduce or eliminate sources.
- Implementing circulation improvements.
- Conducting studies to determine source(s) and evaluate alternative corrective actions followed by implementation of corrective actions.

The Clean Beaches Initiative (Propositions 13 and 40) have provided \$76 million for coastal cleanup projects throughout the state, to alleviate the health hazards and beach postings and closures caused by non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution is urban runoff contaminated by pesticides, fertilizers, animal wastes, oil, grease, sediments, and other toxics used in our everyday lives.

For additional information on the CBI Grant Program, please see the State Water Resources Control Board's Web site at

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwphome/beaches/index.html>.