

State Water Resources Control Board**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****November 15, 2001**

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**\$1.2 Million State Water Board Grant to Pismo Beach
Will Help Reduce Sewage Overflows Into Coastal Waters**

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) today approved a \$1.2 million grant for the City of Pismo Beach for infrastructure improvements that will help reduce sewage flows into the Pacific Ocean. The funds will help rebuild the Addie Street lift station, which has been the source of repeated sewage spills into Pismo Creek, a tributary to the coastal waters.

The present lift station, originally built in 1952, is unreliable, undersized, and has exceeded its useful life. Annually, major rainfalls create flows that overload the sanitary sewer system. Currently, Pismo Beach uses portable pumps and private septic pumping trucks to minimize the possibility of discharge. Each year, about 2.5 million people visit the beach. The existing lift station has been responsible for numerous spills that have contaminated the ocean waters.

The proposed new station will provide enough capacity to handle the increased inflows during heavy rains. The lift station will consist of dual wet wells equipped with three pumps, plus one standby pump, with level control devices to minimize the potential for sewage spills. A control building will be constructed to house the electrical controls, odor control equipment, and an emergency generator.

“We are pleased that we can assist in providing money for infrastructure improvements such as this one in Pismo Beach,” said Arthur G. Baggett, chairman of the SWRCB. “We are glad we can help protect the state’s ocean resources by assisting local agencies in keeping contaminants such as sewage from getting into the waters.”

In July 2001, Governor Gray Davis signed the 2001 Budget Act, which appropriated more than \$32 million for clean beaches projects. The Budget Act’s Coastal Nonpoint Source Control subaccount provides funding for projects that protect and restore the state’s coastal waters. The account uses funds from the Costa-Machado Act of 2000.

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