Water Quality Report Card

Indicator Bacteria in Mission Bay

Regional Water Board:	**San Diego, Region 9**
Beneficial Uses Affected:	**Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)**
Implemented Through:	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit
Effective Date:	**NA**
Attainment Date:	**2021**

STATUS: Conditions Improving

Pollutant Type: Point Source | Nonpoint Source | Legacy

Pollutant Source: Urban Stormwater Runoff; Human Waste; Naturally Occurring

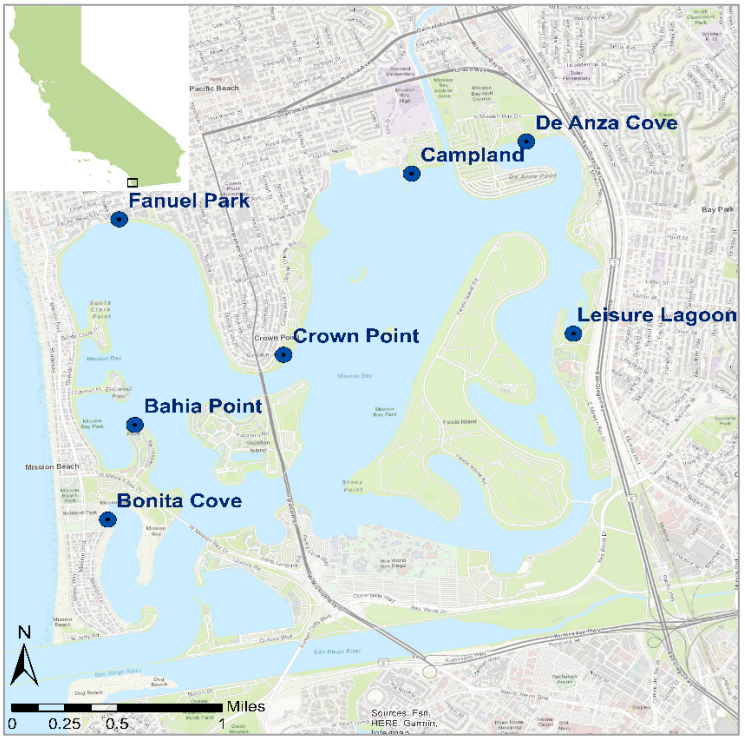
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Mission Bay, in the City of San Diego (City), is a popular aquatic park enjoyed by millions each year for swimming and watersports. In 1998, after decades of detecting fecal bacteria, Mission Bay was listed as impaired for water contact recreation (REC-1) on the USEPA Clean Water Act section 303(d) List due to elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria (Enterococcus and fecal coliform). Fecal indicator bacteria originate in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and their presence in the bay indicates the possible presence of human pathogens that can cause illness. Sources of fecal indicator bacteria include leaking sewer lines, birds and other wildlife, storm drain discharges, and irrigation runoff. The Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requires the City to control the input of bacteria and other pollutants to the bay. The City addressed the bacteria problem with upgraded sewage infrastructure and installation of a runoff interceptor system that diverts bacteria-laden runoff before it enters the bay. Also, with a grant from the State Clean Beach Initiatives program, the City conducted a bacterial source identification study and implemented best management practices (BMPs) to abate sources, which were primarily avian. Seven areas listed as impaired in 2010 met water quality standards for water contact recreation in 2020, as did most other areas around the bay.

Water Quality Outcomes

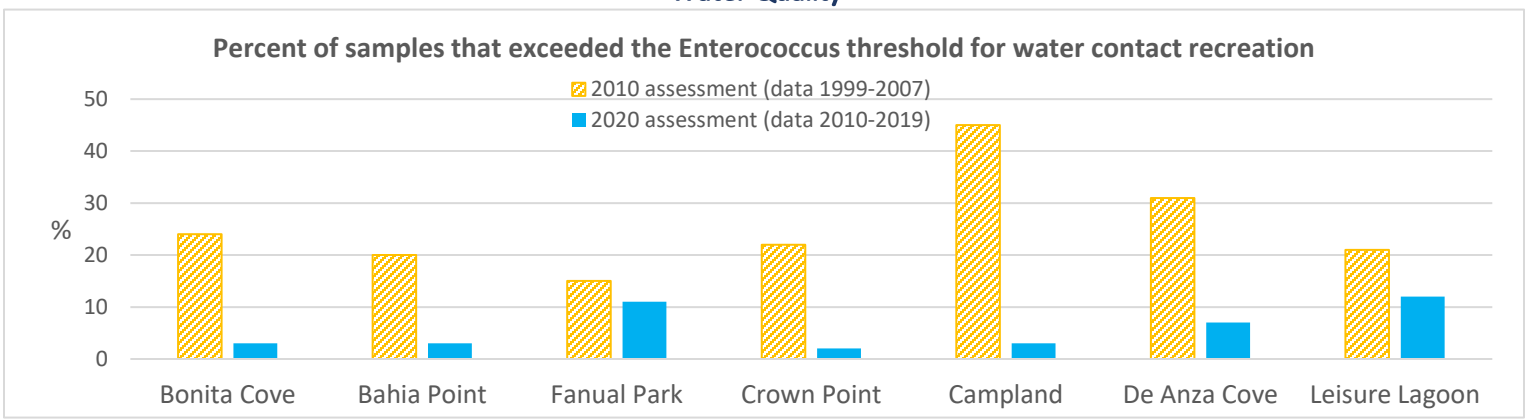
- *Indicator bacteria conditions have improved at most recreational areas around Mission Bay.*

Mission Bay in San Diego, California



- *To improve water quality for recreation, the City of San Diego upgraded its sewer infrastructure, installed a runoff interceptor system, and identified bacterial sources for BMP implementation.*
- *Indicator bacteria conditions still need improvement at a few bay areas used for water contact recreation; these areas are currently being addressed through MS4 permit investigation.*

Water Quality



Released September 2021