



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

Item 7  
Supporting Document 2




Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties  
Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from USEPA

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4353  
(858) 467-2952 • Fax (858) 571-6972  
[http:// www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego)

**TO:** Barbara L. Evoy,  
Deputy Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance

**In reply refer to:  
SWU:Ebecker**

**FROM:** David W. Gibson   
Executive Officer  
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

**DATE:** May 27, 2010

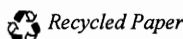
**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT FUNDS BY THE  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FOR BEACH AND BAY WATER QUALITY  
MONITORING PROGRAM, SAN DIEGO REGION**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is requesting an allocation of \$345,897 from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) to the County of San Diego to continue the County's Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program during 2011.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 411, the California Ocean Contact Water Sports Standard, the County of San Diego implements the Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program (Program) to monitor bacteriological water quality at area recreational beaches and act as a clearinghouse to notify the public when water quality standards are not met. The County is mandated to implement the Program only when the State has the funds to pay for the Program. The County's Program is currently funded using Proposition 13 bond funds under a \$620,000 contract with the State Water Board through June 30, 2010. The County has also received an additional contract from the State Water Board for \$123,000 using federal stimulus funds to continue funding from July 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010. The County's Program will end on October 31 unless additional state or federal funds become available.

The CAA Funding Request Form, Program Scope of Work, Program Budget, and letter of support from San Diego Coastkeeper, Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter, and WILD Coast are enclosed.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



The San Diego Water Board will be considering adoption of a resolution supporting this request for CAA funding of the County's Program at the June 9, 2010 Board meeting. A copy of the adopted resolution will be forwarded to you following the meeting. Thank you for in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Becker of my staff at (858) 492-1785.

DWG:dtb:esb

- Enclosures:
1. State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA Request Form) Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary
  2. Scope of Work – County of San Diego Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program
  3. Budget – County of San Diego Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program
  4. Letter of Conditional Support from San Diego Coastkeeper, Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter, and WILD COAST dated May 10, 2010

cc: Mark McPherson, Chief  
Land and Water Quality Division  
Department of Environmental Health  
County of San Diego  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite C  
San Diego, CA, 92123

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA)  
FUNDING REQUEST FORM**

Send the completed form and attached documentation to Cristina Mayorga-Ochoa at [cochoa@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cochoa@waterboards.ca.gov) or at  
1001 I Street, 17th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>Agency Name:</b> (maximum of 40 characters)	<b>County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>5201 Ruffin Road, Suite C San Diego, CA, 92123</b>
<b>Agency Phone Number:</b>	<b>(858) 495-5572</b>
<b>Agency Representative:</b>	<b>Mark McPherson</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>San Diego Region 9</b>
<b>Region Representative:</b>	<b>Eric Becker</b>
<b>Representative Phone Number:</b>	<b>858 492-1785</b>

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

<b>Name of Project:</b>	County of San Diego's Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program	<b>Project Start and End Dates:</b>	November 2010 through October 2011
<b>Project Location:</b>	County of San Diego		
<b>Funding Amount:</b>	\$345,897		

**PURPOSE OF REQUEST**

**1) Purpose of Request (attach additional sheet if needed): To secure \$345,897 from the CAA for the County of San Diego to continue the Beach and Bay Water Quality Program during 2011 to monitor bacteriological water quality at San Diego area recreational beaches.**

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2) Background: The State of California's Assembly Bill (AB) 411, the California Ocean Contact Water Sports Standard, enacted in 1999 requires public health agencies, subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds, to conduct weekly bacterial monitoring (enterococci bacteria, fecal coliform, and total coliform), between April 1 through October 31st, of waters adjacent to public beaches which have more than 50,000 visitors annually and are near storm drains which flow in the summer. If any one of the bacteria indicator organisms exceeds state water quality standards the local health officer is required to post conspicuous warning signs at the beach and to make the determination whether to close that beach in the case of extended exceedances. AB 411 also requires the health officer to establish a telephone hotline to inform the public of all beaches that are closed, posted or otherwise restricted.

The County of San Diego implements the requirements of AB 411 through its Beach and Water Quality Monitoring Program. Under this Program the County performs bacteriological water quality sampling at area beaches and acts as a clearing house for beach water quality monitoring data to notify the public when water quality standards are not met at recreational beaches. The County of San Diego has since 1999 implemented its Beach and Water using AB 411 grant funds allocated by the California Department of Public Health (DPH) or other alternative funding provided by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

In 2008, funding for the County's Beach Water Quality Program through the DPH AB 411 grant program was halted due to the on-going shortfall in state revenues. The County's Program is currently funded through October 31, 2010 using alternative bond funds and federal stimulus funds managed by the State Water Board. The County has not identified any funding source to continue funding the Program after January 1, 2011 and the County will have to terminate the program unless a funding source is secured.

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3) Impact to community or surrounding areas in regards to water quality: Water quality conditions at San Diego County's beaches are vital to the health and quality of life of San Diego County residents and to the San Diego Region's economy. Millions of tourists and residents visit the County's beaches each year and generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the local economy related to ocean water recreation and tourism. The County's Program helps ensure the public is informed on beach water quality conditions and health risks posed by coming into contact with polluted waters. The County's Program also provides the San Diego Water Board with comprehensive monitoring information to achieve a systematic understanding of the effects of nonpoint source pollution on beach water quality conditions and to measure the effectiveness of the Board's efforts to reduce and eliminate water pollution sources.

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4) What is the waste being addressed by this project?: Bacteria wastes including Enterococcus, fecal coliform, and total coliform.

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5) List any responsible party: County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health

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6) Will any of these funds be used for Regional Board oversight?  YES  NO If YES, how much?

The San Diego Water Board will be considering adoption of a resolution supporting this request for CAA funding of the County's Program at the June 9, 2010 Board meeting. A copy of the adopted resolution will be forwarded following the Board meeting

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**DOCUMENTATION**

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Scope of Work (Attached)

Regional Board Resolution or proof of Regional Board support (Attached)

**State Board Decision for \$100,000 and Below:**

Approved       Denied

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Deputy Director's Recommendation for Funding (over \$100,000):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# **County of San Diego**

## **Department of Environmental Health**

### **Land and Water Quality Division**

#### **Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program**

##### **Background:**

Since 1999 the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) has contracted with the California Department of Public Health to use funds from the Beach Safety Act (AB411) to perform water quality sampling and act as a clearing house for beach water quality monitoring data to notify the public when water quality standards are not met at recreational beaches (ocean and bays). The Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program coordinated the sampling and posting of signs warning of contaminated water at beaches affected by sewage spills, when monitoring indicated bacteria levels exceed State standards, or during other events that may pose a threat to public health.

In September of 2008 the Governor line item vetoed the funding (\$302K) from the State Budget and the Department of Environmental Health was unable to continue to provide the services without an alternative funding source. The County is mandated to implement the Beach Safety Act (AB411) only when the State has the funds to pay for the program.

##### **Current Program Funding:**

- Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program is currently funded by a \$600,620 contract from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010. The revenue for this contract is from existing unused Proposition 13 bond funds managed by the State Water Board
- The County has received a contract from the SWRCB for \$123,200 from ARRA 604(b) stimulus funds to continue funding from July 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010.
- No funding source currently identified after January 1, 2010; will have to terminate program
- Cost of current year-round program is approximately \$350,000 (1.6 staff years)

##### **Possible Future Funding Options:**

###### Short Term

- Work with San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) and State Board to allow funding of monitoring through a project funded by the Clean-up and Abatement Account for fines levied for local sewage releases.

###### Longer Term

###### 1. Regional Water Quality Control Board NPDES Permit Funding

- The State Water Quality Control Board's Beach Water Quality Workgroup has proposed funding the beach water quality programs through the National Pollutions Discharge Elimination System
- The funding would come from municipal storm water permittees and waste water agencies that have ocean outfalls, as part of their surface water monitoring requirements.
- RWQCB's would work with local agencies to redirect some of the monitoring resources to ensure beach water quality monitoring.
- This model is currently being developed in Orange County and could be used by other jurisdictions.
- Needs to be reviewed by many stakeholders groups in San Diego County before it would be considered acceptable here.

2. State Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Permit Surcharge
  - The State Water Board's Beach Water Quality Workgroup has proposed funding the beach water quality programs through a beach water quality surcharge placed on Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permits issued by the local Regional Boards
  - This funding mechanism is being investigated by the State Board management and would require a change in law

### **Monitoring Program:**

DEH evaluated the data from the previous 5 years of beach water quality monitoring and starting in 2009 chose to sample 44 locations versus the 55 locations previously sampled between April 1st and October 31st. We used data from previous exceedances, proximity to potential sources of contamination, number of users and accessibility in our analysis of potential locations. The 11 locations that were removed from the sampling program had very few to no advisories over the last 5 years. This risk based approach allows DEH to continue to provide quality public health notifications while addressing increased costs and lower revenues. In addition to the 44 locations that DEH samples, we also analyze and take action on the beach monitoring data provided by the waste water agencies at 41 other locations.

DEH increased the number of locations sampled during the wet weather season (November 1st- March 31st) from 13 to 15. For most of the State, the dry weather season is considered to have the highest beach attendance and therefore the State contract is limited to that time period. Because of San Diego's temperate climate, there is still high beach attendance during the "wet weather" months and also higher risks as a result of rain washing urban runoff onto beaches and into the ocean. The winter high risk locations are based upon actual year-round recreational water use and the potential for contamination from sewage, non-point sources, and lagoons draining large urbanized areas. In addition to the 15 locations that DEH samples, we also analyze and take action on the beach monitoring data provided by the waste water agencies at 41 other locations. DEH has limited funding to perform this monitoring through the use of US EPA Beach Act funds.

### **Program Components:**

#### ***Testing, Monitoring and Data Analysis***

##### Dry Weather (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>)

- Sample 44 locations (51 samples) every week
  - Analyze sampling data from these 44 locations
- Analyze sampling data from another 41 locations provided by wastewater agencies, Oceanside and Coronado
- Post advisories when standards are exceeded and resample until health standards are met

##### Wet Weather (November 1st through March 31<sup>st</sup>)

- Sample 15 high risk locations (20 samples) each week
  - Analyze sampling data from these 15 locations
- Analyze sampling data from another 41 locations provided by wastewater agencies, Oceanside and Coronado
- Post advisories when standards are exceeded and resample until health standards are met

#### ***Risk Analysis, Mitigation and Communication***

##### Year Round

- Analyze sewage spill reports
- Public notification of water quality
  - Phone hotline **(619) 338-2073**
  - The DEH website [www.sdbeachinfo.com](http://www.sdbeachinfo.com)

- Press releases, when needed
- Analyze reports of sewage spills to determine whether they create a risk to public health and if so, notify the public and coordinate re-sampling activities.
- Notify public of risk of swimming after rain events
- Coordinate re-sampling and source investigations with coastal jurisdictions, as needed
- Transfer local beach water monitoring data from all sources to public web pages and to state regulatory agencies.
- Provide public health risk input on technical advisory committees that guide sanitary surveys and source identification studies at contaminated beaches.
- Perform training and public outreach regarding beach water quality to Lifeguard staff and at summer surf camps, marine science classes and local public schools.

***Proposed DEH Sample Locations:***

DEH is taking a risk based approach in determining the locations to be sampled. We are using data from previous exceedances, proximity to potential sources of contamination, number of users and accessibility in our analysis.

LOCATION	BEACH	Summer (S) Dry Weather Sampling Frequency	Winter (W) Wet Weather Sampling Frequency	Note
San Mateo Creek outlet, "Trestles"	San Onofre State Beach	1		IF FLOW
Buena Vista Lagoon outlet	Oceanside City beach	1	1	IF FLOW
Batiquitos Lagoon outlet	South Carlsbad State	1	1	
Tamarack	Carlsbad State Beach	1	1	
Cottonwood Creek outlet	Moonlight State Beach	2	2	
San Elijo Lagoon outlet	Cardiff State Beach	2	2	
Seascape Beach Park	Solana Beach City Beach	1		
San Dieguito River beach	City of Del Mar beach	2	2	
Torrey Pines (Lagoon outlet)	Torrey Pines State Beach	2	2	
La Jolla Cove	La Jolla Community beach	1		
Tecolote (playground watercraft area)	Mission Bay	1		
Leisure Lagoon	Mission Bay	1		
Visitors Center (shoreline)	Mission Bay	1		
Tecolote Shores, swim area	Mission Bay	1		
comfort station, Leisure Lagoon	Mission Bay	1		
swim area next to Wildlife Ref	Mission Bay	1		
Crown Point	Mission Bay	1		
Fanuel Park	Mission Bay	1		
swim area at Bahia Point	Mission Bay	1		
Ski Beach, Vacation Isle	Mission Bay	1		
North Cove, Vacation Isle	Mission Bay	1		
De Anza Cove (swim area)	Mission Bay	1		
Camp Land	Mission Bay	1		
Bonita Cove, eastern shore	Mission Bay	1		
San Diego River outlet (Dog Beach)	Ocean Beach	2	2	



Shelter Island	San Diego Bay	1		
Tidelands Park (Coronado bayside)	San Diego Bay	1		
15th St.	City of Del Mar beach	1	1	
Swami's Beach	Encinitas City Beach	1		
Warm Water Jetty	Carlsbad State Beach	1		
Wisconsin Str	Oceanside City beach	1		
SLR River mouth	Oceanside City beach	1	1	
Tourmaline (PB Point)	Pacific Beach	1	1	
PB Point	Pacific Beach	1		
Playa Del Norte	La Jolla Community beach	1	1	
Nicholson Pt.(Horseshoes/ frmly Ravina)	La Jolla Community beach	1		
Coast Blvd gazebo	La Jolla Community beach	1		
South Casa Beach	La Jolla Community beach	1		
Ave De La Playa	La Jolla Community beach	1	1	
Glorietta Bay	San Diego Bay	1		
Bayside Park (J Street)	San Diego Bay	1		
Spanish Landing	San Diego Bay	1		
Kellogg St/ Laurance. (at beach)	San Diego Bay	1		
IB Pier	Imperial Beach	1	1	
Cortez Street	Imperial Beach		1	



# County of San Diego

## Department of Environmental Health

### Land and Water Quality Division

#### Year Round Monitoring

<u>Staffing:</u>	<u>FTE's</u>
Environmental Health Specialist II	1.0
Environmental Health Technician	0.6
After hours/weekend response	0.4

<u>Costs:</u>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$211,023
Services & Supplies(not including Lab)	\$26,860
<b>Total Budgeted Cost</b>	<b>\$237,883</b>

April 1st-Oct. 31 (AB 411 season)

Lab Costs for 44 locations @ 51 samples/wk for 31 weeks @ \$58.00/sample	\$91,698
Lab Costs for 15% re-samples	\$13,302
<b>Total Lab Costs</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

Nov. 1st-March 31 (Wet Weather)

Lab Costs for 15 locations @ 20 samples/wk for 21 weeks @ \$58.00/sample	\$24,360
Lab Costs for 15% re-samples	\$3,654
<b>Total Lab Costs</b>	<b>\$28,014</b>

Total Program Costs	\$370,897
Revenue:	
US EPA Beach Act Grant	-\$25,000
<b>Net Program Costs</b>	<b>\$345,897</b>

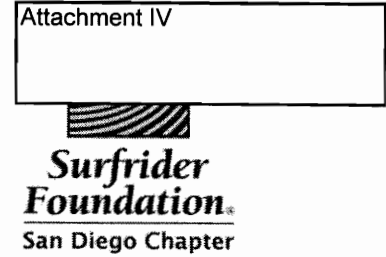
**Dry Weather (AB 411) Season  
only**

<u>Staffing:</u>	<u>FTE's</u>
Environmental Health Specialist II	0.6
Environmental Health Technician	0.6
After hours/weekend response	0.4

<u>Costs:</u>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$171,819
Services & Supplies(not including Lab)	\$26,860
<b>Total Budgeted Cost</b>	<b>\$198,679</b>

<u>April 1st-Oct. 31</u>	
Lab Costs for 44 locations @ 51 samples/wk for 31 weeks @\$58.00/sample	\$91,698
Lab Costs for 15% re-samples	\$13,302
<b>Total Lab Costs</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

<b>Total Program Costs</b>	<b>\$303,679</b>
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May 10, 2010

SUPERVISOR GREG COX  
DISTRICT ONE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

RE: Conditional support for CAO funding for County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of San Diego Coastkeeper, Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter and WILD COAST, we wish to express our conditional support for the County of San Diego's plan to pursue Clean-Up and Abatement Order (CAO) funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund as an emergency measure to continue funding for the DEH Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program for 2011. We recognize that the state and local budget crises present difficulties in funding programs at all levels of government, and funding for programs like the one in question should be obtained where it can be found during these times of economic uncertainty.

However, we ask that any approval by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board of the County's plan be conditioned upon the County of San Diego developing a longer-term funding plan for this important program that is both sustainable (dedicated) and locally-based. We also strongly encourage the County to develop an alternate near-term funding plan in the case of denial of the CAO funding request to ensure there is no interruption of the County's water monitoring efforts.

Beaches and ocean water quality are integral to the health and quality of life for San Diego County residents and to the region's economy. San Diego's coastline is a major part of the County's status as a southern California cultural icon for ocean water sports. Millions of tourists and residents visit the County's 52 miles of public beaches every year, and generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the local economy related to ocean water recreation and tourism.

Ongoing monitoring and public notification is critical to ensure the public is informed of any risks from swimming, surfing, diving, paddling or otherwise coming into contact with contaminated waters. In fact, annual beach closure and advisory reports from the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health (DEH) have documented bacterial contamination of beach water quality especially at locations adjacent to river, lagoon, and storm drain outlets.


An integrated and complimentary beach water monitoring strategy between the wastewater dischargers and DEH has been in place since 2004, and the people of San Diego cannot afford to have these efforts suspended based upon the absence of funding. It is clear that the County cannot continue to rely on ever-shrinking and ever-less-reliable state funds for ongoing beach water quality monitoring.

Supervisor Gregory Cox acknowledged this in his March 2009 letter to the County of San Diego that stated the need to identify a long-term funding source for beach water monitoring other than state funding.

Therefore, San Diego Coastkeeper, Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter and WILD COAST, who jointly represent the residents and ocean users of San Diego County, support the County's effort to secure outside funding to continue its beach water monitoring program in 2011 conditioned upon a commitment to identify a local, dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism to maintain this program into the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Reznik', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Reznik  
San Diego Coastkeeper

Manase Mansur  
Surfrider Foundation San Diego chapter

Serge Dedina  
WILD COAST