

Rincon Point Area – Septic to Sewer Conversion

Rincon Beach is located 20 miles east of Santa Barbara and is one of the most famous surfing spots in the world. Adjacent to the beach are some 76 homes and two public beach access points owned by the County of Santa Barbara and California State Parks. The neighborhood is bisected by Rincon Creek and its coastal lagoon. The County beach was visited by more than 470,000 visitors in FY 2003-04.

The purpose of the Proposition 13 grant was to conduct the Phase 1 elements of the project that will utilize \$200,000 from this grant program for determining and obtaining CEQA documents pertinent to this project, feasibility study(s), preliminary and final design and preparation of construction plans, planning services, environmental services, and project management and administration. Upon completion of Phase 1 elements, Phase 2 of the program was to utilize the remaining \$300,000 grant funds to cover the costs of actual construction, but not until CEQA requirements had been satisfied.



Sanitary facilities currently provided at Rincon Beach County Park consist of a two stall concrete block restroom structure, served by septic facilities (dry well). This project will involve the abandonment of the septic system and the installation of a new sewer lateral connection to a new sewer main to be provided by the Carpinteria Sanitary District (District).

The Carpinteria Sanitary District completed preliminary design to extend their major collection facilities to the Rincon Point area in 2000. The District circulated a Draft EIR for public review in winter 2003-04. Commencement of the County Park facilities can only begin upon completion of the District's EIR for the project and verification of construction of the main sewer line to the Rincon Point area.

Milestones accomplished

An alternatives analysis was completed on routing and lift station options for the County park project. The design, engineering plans, technical specifications and cost estimate were completed also. Estimated costs for construction are between \$77,000 - \$91,000 and do not include potential hook up charges, permit fees, or costs to implement project mitigation measures that may come out of the environmental review / permitting process.

Challenges Encountered

It was understood from the beginning of the grant award process that the County Park project could not move forward into construction until the extension of the Carpinteria Sanitation District's main was underway and ready to accept lateral connections. Due to circumstances not entirely known to County Parks, the alternatives analysis for potential alignments of the main extension and the follow up environmental process did not begin until August 2003 with the EIR being circulated for public comment in January / February 2004. This did not allow County Parks enough time to move into the appropriate environmental review process for the restroom project within the grant timeline for Phase I. In addition, the estimation of time as to when the main extension would be installed to the Rincon Point area is unknown therefore making it impossible to commit to the Phase II portion of the grant project to complete construction.

Future Intent to develop project area

County Parks will continue to monitor the progress of the Carpinteria Sanitation District sewer main extension project and at the appropriate time, will seek funds to complete the environmental review, permitting and construction of this project.

County Environmental Health continues to monitor and test ocean waters along this area of coastline. Data is available on ocean monitoring at their website: <http://www.sbcphd.org/ehs/ocean.htm>.