

**Clean Beaches Initiative  
Urban Runoff/Water Quality Improvement Projects – Annual Progress Summary #2**

**City:** City of Seaside

**Project Name:** Bay Avenue Outfall Dry Weather Diversion Project



**Project Description/Purpose/Approach:**

Monterey State Beach is a wide, curving beach that extends four miles from Municipal Wharf #2 at Monterey Harbor, north to Fort Ord. Monterey State Beach had over 740,000 visitors from June 2001 to July 2002. The project area is a storm drain outfall located at the north end of Monterey State Beach.

The City of Seaside's storm drain system discharges at two points into Monterey Bay. This project will divert urban water runoff from one of those points, the Bay Avenue

Outfall, to the sanitary sewer system during the dry season. This project is intended to eliminate contaminants associated with urban runoff to Monterey Bay and to augment the critical water needs of Monterey County during dry weather.

**Project Scope:** The project is being completed in two phases. In the first stage, the open channel across the beach was converted into a buried culvert. A valve was installed at the end of the culvert to eliminate the intrusion of seawater and sand into the system. In the second phase, a dry weather diversion system will be installed to divert urban runoff to the wastewater treatment plant. Monitoring and reporting will be performed to gauge the effectiveness of this project once the diversion system is installed.

**Progress/Milestones Achieved/Schedule:** Construction of the first phase began in February of 2006 and the diversion system will be completed by August 2009. The outfall, including an aging concrete headwall and a concrete channel were replaced with a buried culvert and emergency overflow structure. The concrete channel was approximately 150 feet long and was rimmed by sagging chain link fence and rusted barbed wire. This unsightly structure was removed and replaced in 2006 to improve public safety, aesthetics, and beach access.

The proposed diversion system is currently being designed. CEQA and NEPA documents are being prepared for the proposed construction. Construction of the diversion system is scheduled to begin after the rainy season in May 2009 and will be completed by August. Upon activation of the diversion system, post-construction monitoring will be implemented.

**Other Public Agency/Private Partners:** State of California Water Resources Control Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**Project Cost:** \$1,300,000.00 (estimate includes storm drain improvements and diversion project)

**Project Funding Sources:** City of Seaside, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

**Clean Beaches Initiative Funding:** \$565,000

**Project Outcomes/Effectiveness/Benefits:** The project goal is to reduce the number of beach postings and to improve ocean water quality. To gauge the effectiveness, the City will monitor the storm drain and surf zone for bacteria and flow during the 2010 AB411 monitoring period. The approved Monitoring Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan developed for this project will be implemented to ensure high-quality data is obtained.

A secondary benefit of this project is enhanced ocean water quality and public health due to the diversion of potential sewage spills and uncontrolled construction runoff. The Bay Avenue Outfall Dry Weather Diversion Project is undoubtedly a valuable contribution in the effort to improve the water quality in the Monterey Bay and improving beach aesthetics and access.