

Beach Work Groups and Safe to Swim 2010 Report

Beach Water Quality Funding Progress

In 1997, Assembly Bill (AB) 411 (Stats. 1997, Ch. 765) mandated that beaches with storm drains that discharge during dry weather and that are visited by more than 50,000 people per year, be monitored at least weekly from April 1 through October 31 by the local health officer or environmental health agency. In 2004, AB1876 (Stats. 2004, Ch. 709) expanded the AB 411 monitoring requirements to the San Francisco Bay area beaches (Program). It should be noted however, that the monitoring provisions are not mandatory in years that the state does not provide sufficient funds.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provided funding to the counties to implement the Program using General Funds through June 30, 2008. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2008, DPH distributed a total of \$1,098,851 to fund the Program. For FY 2008-2009, the state budget (Budget) originally proposed a 10 percent reduction in funds resulting in a proposed funding amount of \$984,000. However, before signing of the FY 2008-2009 Budget, the Governor used his line item veto authority to delete Program funding from the Budget due to the severe General Fund deficit.

On November 4, 2008, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved Resolution No. 2008-0080 committing \$1.968 million in funds from the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) to provide short-term funding for the Program while the prospects of a sustainable long-term funding source was explored. The grant funding was used by the DPH to implement the Program for FYs 2008-09 and 2009-10. The State Water Board provided DPH with \$499,834 from its federal stimulus allocation for Clean Water Act 604(b) projects to continue beach monitoring from July through December 2010.

At the November 2, 2010 board meeting, the State Water Board made additional funds available from the Coastal Nonpoint Source Control (CNPSC) programs pursuant to Proposition 13 and the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to temporarily continue to fund the Program at the \$984,000 level for the Calendar year 2011.

There is no identified sustainable funding source currently available to fund monitoring after 2011. AB 411 monitoring is not required if there if the state does not provide its annual contribution.

Beach Water Quality Work Groups' Meetings:

So Cal Meeting- Feb 3

- Summary and discussion of findings-Newport Bay Prop. 13 TMDL Study
- Orange County Proposed Regional Monitoring Plan
- Review Safe to Swim Webportal (*The Work Group produced three pages of suggestions which included additions and revisions to the Webportal.*)

Nor Cal Meeting- Feb 25

- PhyloTech - Introduction and Bioinformatic Development Projects – (Phylochip Data Analysis and Presentation Options)
- Oil, Sewage, and Estuary Resilience

So Cal Meeting- May 12

- Beach Funding Issues
- Orange County Proposed Regional Monitoring Plan Is it a model for other counties?
- Rollout of Rapid Methods: Orange County Demonstration Project – Summer 2010.
- Information Management, SCCOOS (and how they might integrate with Safe-to-Swim, in follow up webex meeting on Oct 4th).

Nor Cal Meeting- May 27

- Phylochip Prop 50 Project – beaches and pathogens study results
- Update on California Beachwatch Database
- Heal the Bay Beach Report Card Release Update

Nor Cal Meeting Aug 26

- Impact of Urbanization, Agriculture, and Rainfall on the Occurrence of Bacterial Pathogens and *stx* Genes in Streams Draining the Central California Coast
- Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Kelp along CA Beaches

So Cal Meeting – Aug 18

- Detection of *Staphylococcus aureus* and MRSA in Beach Water and Sand
- Orange County Rapid Indicator demonstration project update
- Wet season fecal indicator bacteria distribution and source, Malibu, California

So Cal Meeting- Nov 10

- Regrowth of Enterococci and Fecal Coliform in Street Gutter and Storm Drain Biofilms. ([Link to Article](#))
- Using QMRA to Understand Recreational Water Risks ([Link to Articles](#))
- How Has Beach Water Quality Changed Since Enactment of the Clean Water Act?"

Nor Cal Meeting- Nov 17

- Marine Mammal Study –Sea Otter Update from Monterey Bay (impact of Harmful Algal Blooms)
- Phylochip
 - a) HyBacterial community analysis of fecal contamination sources in coastal California
 - b) Response of indigenous microbial communities to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- Using QMRA to Understand Recreational Water Risks ([Link to Articles](#))

Safe to Swim Portal Development Work:

Meeting- April 19: A list of portal development items were identified at the meeting (note have been Web-posted). (Covered suggested changes from the Monitoring Council; Data flow issues from the Work Groups; Suggested portal changes from the Work Groups; Freshwater monitoring groups participated.)

Follow-up WebEx Conference Call with SCCOOS- Oct 4: Staff from SCCOOS demonstrated functions within their Website that could benefit the Safe- to-Swim Portal.

External Weblinks to/from the portal- Websites targeting recreational water users; Obtain and post sanitary sewer overflow alerts

BeachWatch Database:

SCCWRP had designed a new BeachWatch Database that will be hosted at the SCCWRP offices, along with the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) node. They are now (Nov 2010) distributing new updates to local beach agencies for direct beach data submission into this new database. SCCWRP will assist in gathering all monthly beach data and improving data quality. This data will be linked into the Safe to Swim website in early 2011.

Portal Updates:

John Dorsey's summaries of 17 Clean Beach Initiative Summaries will be made available to the Safe to Swim website. These analyses report results from 17 Clean Beach Initiative (CBI) grant funded projects in terms of improved water quality and other criteria.

A "Research Page" was added.

- New Non-Culture Fecal Indicator Bacteria Methods
- Microbial Source Studies
- California Water Quality Collaboration Network Webinar on Source Tracking

CEDEN is now live and is envisioned to help provide data used by the Safe to Swim portal.

Monitoring Advancements:

Rapid Methods Demonstration Project

A new water quality monitoring method was used to improve public health protection at select Orange County beaches during an 8 week demonstration period in this past summer. The new method yield results in about two hours, compared to the more than 24 hours required for currently-used methods. This technology will enable managers to provide beach water quality advisories on the same day that samples are collected. Advisories were posted at the demonstration beaches via an electronic message board and through tweets (twitter.com).

Orange County Proposed Regional Monitoring Plan

Currently, four separate public agencies conduct microbial ocean water quality monitoring along 42 miles of open coastline and 72 miles of harbor and bay frontage under various discharge permit requirements or statutory mandates. Annually, the four agencies collect over 15,000 samples and perform over 40,000 individual analyses. This monitoring plan will create a collaborative and integrated ocean water quality monitoring program across the four agencies that operate under NPDES, POTW and MS4 permit requirements and meet long-term public health and permit compliance needs in the region.

Public Presentations of the Safe-to-Swim Portal:

- National Water Quality Monitoring Conference 2010
- California and World Oceans Conference 2010
- California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup 2010