



County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health and Quality
 Land and Water Quality Division
Beach and Bay Monitoring Program
www.sdcdehq.org | www.sdbeachinfo.com



For the **current status** on coastal water quality in San Diego County, call **(619) 338-2073** or visit www.sdbeachinfo.com.

DEFINITIONS

<p>Additional signs not posted.</p>	<p>GENERAL RAIN ADVISORY FOR ALL COASTAL WATERS: A General Rain Advisory is issued when significant rain (~0.2 inches) causes urban runoff to enter the ocean and bays. This contamination causes bacteria to increase significantly in ocean and bay waters, especially near storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets. DEHQ directs beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters for 72 hours after rainfall ends. While many storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets are permanently posted with white metal warning signs, additional warning signs are not posted for General Rain Advisories.</p>
<p>No signs. Beach is open for recreational use.</p>	<p>OPEN: Beaches are open when the most recent monitoring and/or sampling data indicates the beach meets State health standards and is open for recreational use.</p>
	<p>ADVISORY: Advisories are issued to warn beach users as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Bacterial Exceedance Advisory is issued when ocean or bay water sample results exceed State health standards due to high bacteria levels. - A Precautionary Advisory is issued when DEHQ determines there is a potential for elevated bacteria due to dredging, lagoon opening or other sources in the vicinity of coastal areas. <p>DEHQ directs beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters in the advisory area. Beach water quality monitoring uses bacterial indicators to test for the presence of possible pathogens. The bacterial indicators are not specific to humans, and may be from other sources including wildlife, pets, soils, and rotting vegetation like kelp. Ocean or bay waters with elevated bacterial indicators may contain human pathogens that can cause illnesses.</p>
	<p>WARNING: A warning is issued when water sample results exceed State health standards due to high bacteria levels and there are environmental factors (i.e. south swell conditions – transboundary flows) indicating waters/currents are pushing bacteria from the international border north. DEHQ directs beach users to avoid water contact at beaches posted with orange and blue warning signs. Beaches with warnings are sampled daily to monitor all environmental factors.</p>
	<p>CLOSURE: A water contact Closure is issued when a sewage spill or chemical spill impacts ocean or bay waters. Sewage/chemical contaminated water may contain chemicals or human pathogens that can cause ill health. The Department of Environmental Health & Quality (DEHQ) directs beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters in the closure area.</p>
 <p>Permanent Sign</p>	<p>OUTFALL WARNING SIGNS: Outfall warning signs are posted at many storm drains, rivers, and lagoon outlets as bacteria levels can significantly increase due to urban runoff. DEHQ directs beach users to avoid contact with runoff and ocean or bay waters within 75 feet of runoff.</p>

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DISCHARGES TO STORM DRAINS CALL: (888) 846-0800

