



County of San Diego
 Department of Environmental Health
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh



Land and Water Quality Division
Beach and Bay Monitoring Program

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

DEFINITIONS:

	<p>GENERAL ADVISORY FOR ALL COASTAL WATERS DUE TO RAINFALL:</p> <p>A General Advisory is issued after 0.2 inch or more rain is received to alert the public of ocean and bay water contamination by urban runoff. Bacterial levels can increase significantly in ocean and bay waters, especially near all storm drain, river, and lagoon outlets, during and after rainstorms. The Department of Environmental Health advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters for a period of 3 days (72 hours) after rainfall ends. While many coastal outlets (storm drains, rivers, and lagoons) within San Diego County are permanently posted with white metal warning signs, <u>additional temporary warning signs are not posted for General Advisories.</u></p>
	<p>CLOSURES:</p> <p>A water contact Closure is issued anytime a reported sewage spill impacts or may impact ocean or bay recreational waters. Sewage contaminated water may contain human pathogens that can cause illnesses. The Department of Environmental Health advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters in the closure area and where closure signs are posted.</p> <p>< Temporary plastic signs</p>
	<p>ADVISORIES / WARNINGS:</p> <p>A water contact advisory/warning is issued when monitoring reveals ocean or bay water quality does not meet State standards due to high bacterial levels, or during the excavation of a coastal outlet (river or lagoon) when potentially contaminated water is released to the ocean. 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 levels may contain human pathogens that can cause illnesses. The Department of Environmental Health advises beach users to avoid contact with ocean and bay waters where advisory/warning signs are posted. Signs are usually posted 50 yards (150 feet) either side of a sampling location where water quality does not meet State standards.</p>

BEACHES WITH URBAN RUNOFF FLOWS DURING DRY WEATHER:

As a precaution, avoid contact with runoff and recreational waters within at least 75 feet from where runoff enters ocean or bay waters during dry weather.

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

