

Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean.

Major Impact: Human Health Risks

Santa Monica Bay Epidemiological Study:

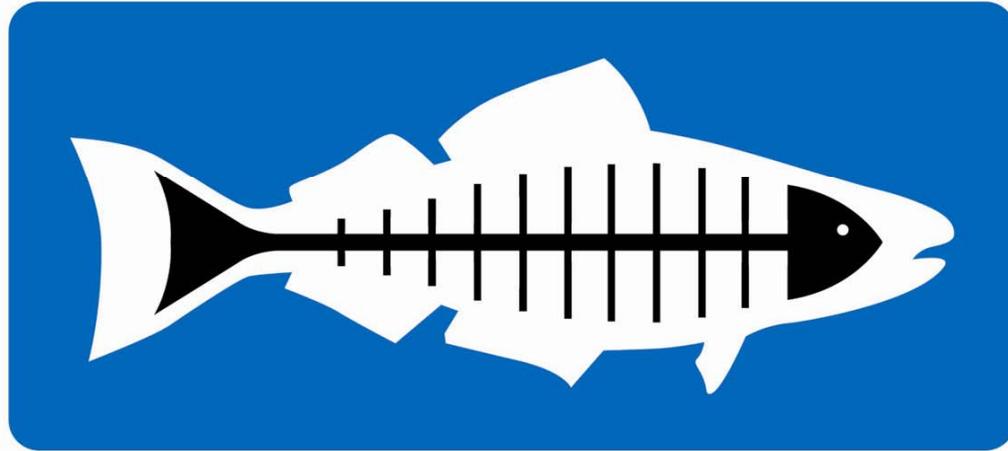
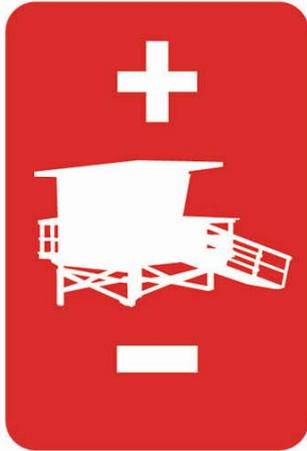
- Those who swam in front of flowing drain are twice as likely to get sick than those 400 yards away
- 1 in 25 swimmers in front of drain will experience adverse health effect
- Stomach flu, upper respiratory symptoms, skin rash, ear and eye infection

Microbiological Contamination

Common Sources

- Human Sewage
 - Leaky sewer lines, sewage spills
 - Septic tanks
 - Illicit connections
 - Boater waste
- Bacteria Indicators
 - Domestic Pets
 - Birds
 - Vegetation

BEACH REPORT CARD



Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card:
Communicating Complex Water Quality Issues
and Improving Public Health

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card

Goals of the Program:

- Increase public awareness about beach water quality issues
- Advocacy Tool:
 - to mitigate or eliminate pollution problems at beaches
 - for increased research
 - Also used to determine funding priorities and S. 303d listed impaired waters



Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card---Basics

- A - F grades for beach water quality
- Easy-to-understand translation of bacteria indicator data
- Data from public agencies (environmental health departments and POTWs)
- Rolling 30 day average. Takes into account frequency of exceedances, magnitude of exceedance and most recent dates of exceedance
- Endorsed by the State Water Resources Control Board and Beach Water Quality Workgroup as an effective education tool



Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card---Basics

Methodology incorporates:

- All seven indicators
- Frequency of exceedances
- Magnitude of exceedances
- Multiple indicator exceedances
- A Temporal component





News & Issues

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Beach Report Card SM

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Weekly Report Card - California State Map

BEACH REPORT CARD



Beach

Closures

There are no [beach closures](#) in California at this time.

Rain

Advisories

There are no [rain advisories](#) in California at this time.

BRC

Terminology

Learn all about the [terminology](#) used in the Beach Report Card program!

Beach closure and rain advisory information listed above is based on data provided by California county health agencies. Heal the Bay makes no warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of this information.

- BRC Home
- Report Cards
 - Weekly
 - Summer
 - Annual
- Beach Info
 - Closures From Spills
 - Warning Signs
 - Beach Details
- Background Info
 - Grading System
 - About the BRC

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Weekly Report Card - Grade Map

[CA State Map](#)

Display Format	Now Showing	Navigate
Grade Map <input type="button" value="View Text List"/>	Area: Long Beach & North Orange County, CA Weather: Dry <input type="button" value="Show Wet Grades"/> Grade Period: 4-week period ending September 5, 2006	 North <input type="button" value="▲"/> South <input type="button" value="▼"/>

- More Water Quality Info
- [Orange County Dept. of Health](#)
 - [City of Long Beach](#)
-
- Surf Information
- [WetSand.com](#)

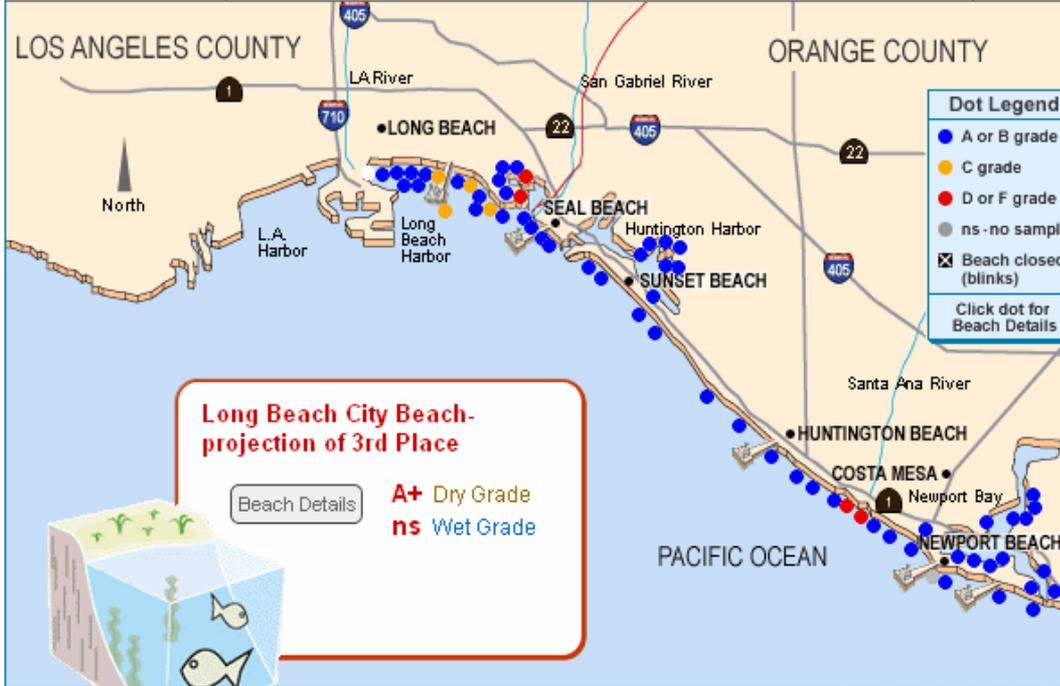


Table 1.
Number of Grades for California Beaches

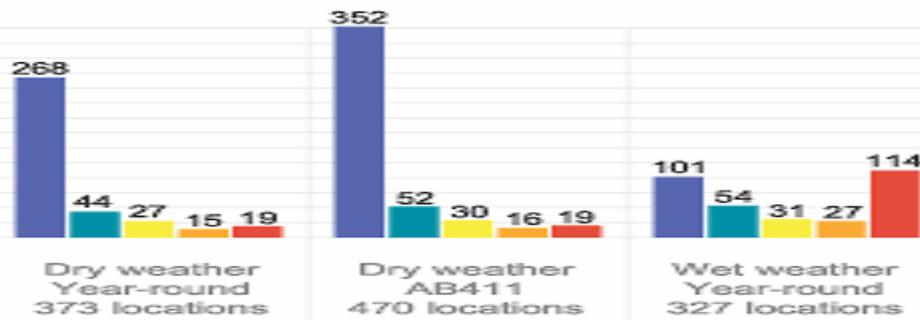
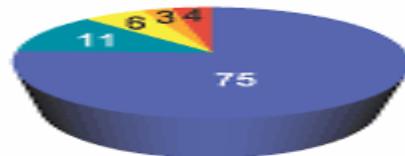


Table 2.
Percentage of Grades for California Beaches



Dry weather, Year-round



Dry weather, AB411



Wet weather, Year-round

Key: ■ = A ■ = B ■ = C ■ = D ■ = F

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card

Benefits to the Public

- General beach water quality information is provided to the general public
- Water quality conditions at beaches throughout the State are provided in one location
- Sewage spill information provided
- Over \$100 million appropriated through the Clean Beach Initiative to clean up California's most polluted beaches
- Data trends can be used for regulatory and advocacy purposes
- Different types analysis are conducted
 - Dry vs. Wet
 - Temporal Analysis (Annual, Summer, Weekly)
 - Beach Type (open ocean, storm drain, and enclosed)

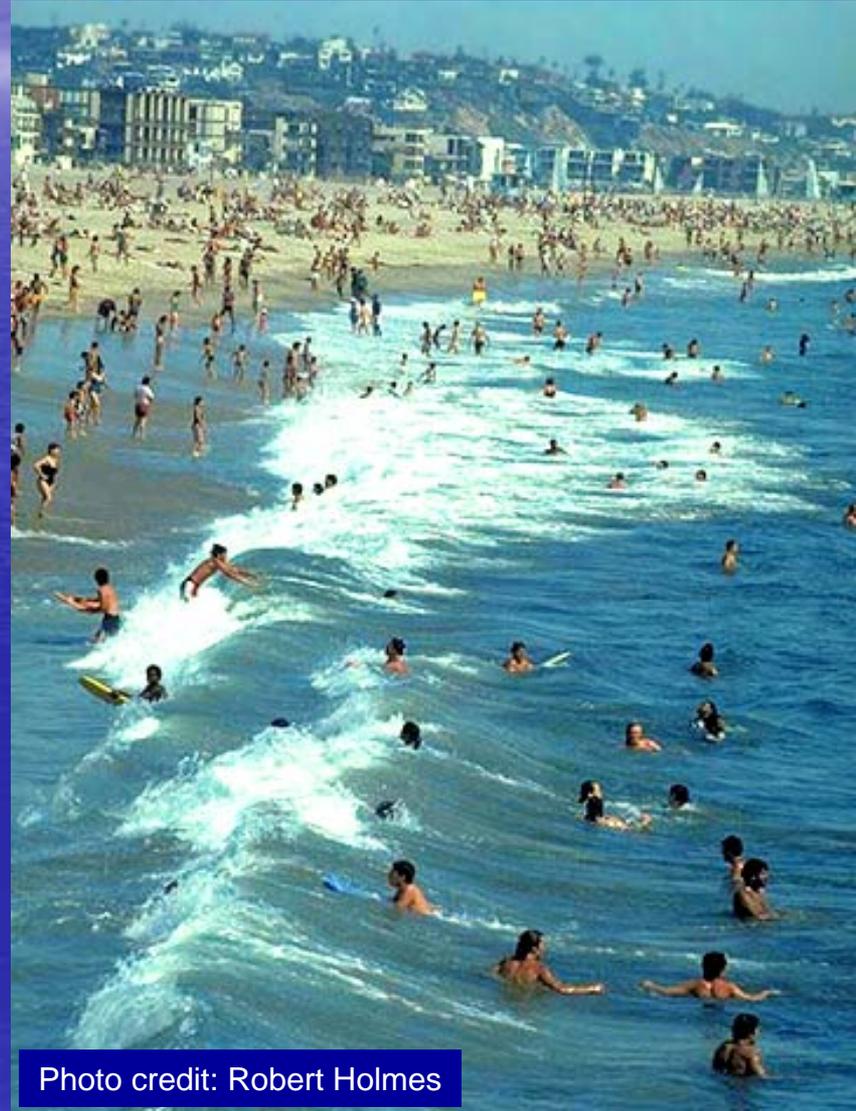


Photo credit: Robert Holmes

What have we learned with the BRC?

- Standardized water quality monitoring and public notification programs are often not standardized.
- Monitoring at more than 485 beaches in California and countless more throughout the U.S.
- Enterococcus exceedances are more frequent
- “Open and unimpacted” beaches clean most of the time.
- Chronic contamination typically at enclosed beaches and storm drain impacted beaches
- Duration and magnitude of storms impact urbanized beaches differently than rural ones. Storms lead to poor grades over wide areas.

**Enclosed Beach
Mother's Beach
Marina Del Rey, CA**



WARNING!

Avoid water contact at any beach with warm, gentle waves that have names like



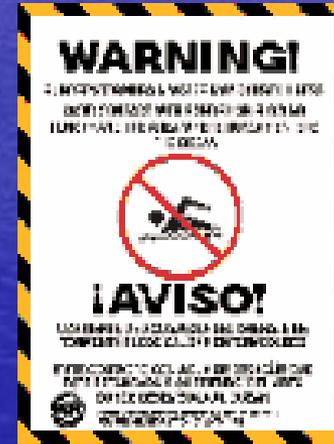
Mothers, Kiddies, Babies,
Children's, Toddlers, Tot,
Juvenile, Whipper-snapper,
Papoose, etc.

Public Agency Notification Postings at Beach



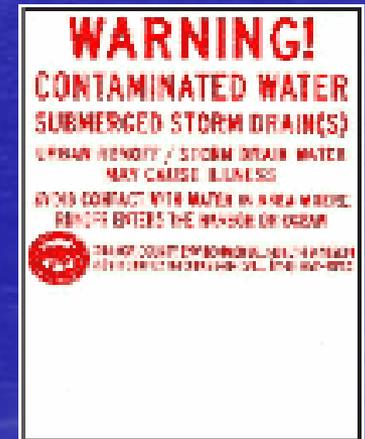
Closure due to sewage spill

Posting or warning due to standard(s) violation



Warning at mouth of creeks, streams, rivers or channels

Warning for submerged storm drains in bays or harbors



WARNING!
ESTRONG CORRIENTS
SEMpre PERIGOSAS
NO SWIMMING

¡PELIGRO!
AGUAS TURBIDAS FUERTES
PUEDE OCASIONAR ENFERMEDAD
NO NADAR





WARNING!

STAY AWAY FROM THE WATER
NO SWIMMING



¡PELIGRO!

ALÉJATE DEL AGUA
NO NADAR

Open Beach Ventura County



Making public notification work?

REQUIREMENTS

- Water quality monitoring program – weekly minimum. Year-round preferred.
- Partnerships
- Getting the word out

