

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER BOARD PRESENTS OCEANSIDE LARGEST CLEAN BEACHES INITIATIVE GRANT YET TO REDUCE BUCCANEER BEACH CONTAMINATION

OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA - State Water Resources Control Board Chair Tam M. Doduc will present a \$5 million dollar check at this evening's Oceanside City Council meeting. The check represents the largest award yet from the State Water Board's Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program.

The program provides grant funding approved as part of Propositions 13, 40, and 50 by California voters. The State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance awards the money to local agencies and non-profit organizations to implement projects to improve and protect California's coastal water quality. The program goal is to reduce bacterial contamination and the number of postings and closures it causes at public beaches.

The \$5 million grant to the City of Oceanside comes from Prop 40 funds and is the largest yet for the Clean Beaches Initiative Program. The project involves the design and construction of an ultraviolet treatment facility at the Loma Alta Creek outlet. Dry weather creek flows will be diverted into the UV facility for treatment prior to being discharged into the ocean. As a result, the City expects the project to reduce the bacterial contamination from Loma Alta Creek.

"Coastal water quality is critical to California's economy and quality of life," observed State Water Board Chair Doduc. "On behalf of the State Water Board, I congratulate the City's initiative to reduce contamination at Buccaneer Beach and increase both the recreational opportunities and safety for the public."

Altogether, the State Water Board has provided approximately \$75 million to date for Clean Beaches Initiative projects. More information on the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program is available on the State Water Board's Web site at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwphome/beaches/index.html>

"The State Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations."

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