



Media Release

State Water Board to fund two projects to improve water quality at Cowell Beach

For Immediate Release
April 23, 2014

Contact: George Kostyrko
Phone: 916-341-7365

Two projects to improve water quality at Cowell Beach have received preliminary funding approval from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance.

Cowell beach is a priority beach for the Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program due to its periodic poor water quality, and it has been previously listed as a "Beach Bummer" in Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card.

A \$450,000 grant to the City of Santa Cruz will fund part of a \$600,000 project to improve the Neary Lagoon storm water drainage facilities, which are believed to be one of the sources of human bacteria contamination at Cowell Beach. The remainder of the project money will come from the City of Santa Cruz.

A \$307,000 grant to the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District will fund part of the estimated \$1.3 million project to repair a pressurized sewer pipeline that travels under Neary Lagoon to the wastewater treatment plant near Cowell Beach. The pipeline is anticipated to be another source of beach contamination.

"Cowell Beach is one of Santa Cruz's most valuable assets. We are pleased to help provide a solution that will protect the health of visitors to this popular beach," said John Russell, Acting Deputy Director at the Division of Financial Assistance.

The Clean Beaches Initiative program has funded over 100 projects along the coast. For more information on the CBI program, a resource [webpage](#) has been established.

The State Water Boards are now on Twitter! Follow us at: <https://twitter.com/h2boardsnews>

