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**Issued by:**

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**Beach Closure Issued for Three Miles North of Santa Maria River  
*Public Advised to Avoid Ocean Water Contact During and After Rainstorms***

San Luis Obispo, CA—The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is closing waters three miles north of the Santa Maria river outfall for recreational water contact, in alignment with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department's closure of waters south of the Santa Maria river outfall. (Details of the Santa Barbara County closure are attached.)

The closures are due to release of secondary treated wastewater into the Santa Maria River. The spill involves an ongoing release of an unknown volume of secondary treated wastewater at the City of Guadalupe Wastewater Treatment Plant into the Santa Maria River. While this wastewater effluent has undergone treatment, no disinfection has occurred.

As a reminder, the Public Health Department advises the public to avoid all ocean water contact during, and at least three days following, significant rainstorms. Surfers, swimmers and others are advised to avoid contact with ocean water during this period, especially in areas close to creeks, rivers, storm drains and other runoff outlets that empty into the ocean.

Contact with storm water while swimming or surfing may increase the risk for certain types of illnesses such as rashes, fever, chills, ear infections, vomiting and diarrhea. Rainstorm runoff is known to transport high levels of disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses and protozoa from the watershed to the ocean. Such organisms carried into the ocean can cause skin, respiratory and intestinal problems. Young children, older adults and people with compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to these waterborne pathogens.

For more information about beach water quality, please visit the Public Health Department Beach Water Quality website at [www.SurfSafeSLO.org](http://www.SurfSafeSLO.org), or call the Ocean Water Monitoring Program Telephone Hotline at (805) 788-3411.

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## PRESS RELEASE January 10, 2023

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### **BEACH CLOSURE ISSUED FOR RANCHO GUADALUPE DUNES PARK *in Guadalupe due to sewage spill***

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued a “**BEACH CLOSED**” notice today in response to a release of secondary treated wastewater into the Santa Maria River.

The spill involves an ongoing release of an unknown volume of secondary treated wastewater at the City of Guadalupe Wastewater Treatment Plant into the Santa Maria River. While this wastewater effluent has undergone treatment, no disinfection has occurred. As a result, Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Park has been closed to recreational water contact, extending three (3) miles from the outfall of the Santa Maria River. The affected area will be posted with signs warning the public to avoid contact with the water until sample results indicate the water is safe for recreational use, when the roadway to the Park becomes accessible. Contact with sewage contaminated water increases the risk for certain types of illnesses.

In addition, with the recent heavy rainfall, Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services wants to remind residents about potential health risks associated with storm water runoff at countywide beaches. Storm water is untreated rain water that flows through the drain system into creeks, the ocean, and other waterways. Contact with storm water while swimming or surfing may increase the risk for certain types of illnesses such as rashes, fever, chills, ear infections, vomiting, and diarrhea. To minimize potential health risks, it is recommended that people do not swim, play or surf in the ocean and creeks for at least **three days** following a rain event. Beachgoers should also avoid areas near the outfall from drainpipes and creeks that enter the ocean following a rain event as storm water runoff may carry high levels of bacteria and pollutants.

The County of Santa Barbara implements a variety of programs to protect public health and enhance environmental quality of County watersheds and beaches. Working to improve water quality by reducing or treating sources of pollution is a multi-faceted task. To find out what is being done to improve water quality and how you can help, visit [www.sbprojectcleanwater.org](http://www.sbprojectcleanwater.org).



## COMUNICADO DE PRENSA 10 de enero del 2023

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### **EMITEN CIERRE DE PLAYA PARA PARQUE DE DUNAS RANCHO GUADALUPE en Guadalupe debido a derrame de aguas residuales**

El Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Santa Bárbara emitió un aviso de "**PLAYA CERRADA**" hoy en respuesta a una liberación de aguas residuales tratadas secundarias en el río Santa Mara.

El derrame implica la liberación continua de un volumen desconocido de aguas residuales tratadas secundarias en la Planta de Tratamiento de Aguas Residuales de la Ciudad de Guadalupe en el río Santa María. Si bien este efluente de aguas residuales ha sido sometido a tratamiento, no se ha producido ninguna desinfección. Como resultado, el Parque de las Dunas de Rancho Guadalupe ha sido cerrado al contacto recreativo con el agua, extendiéndose tres (3) millas desde el desagüe del río Santa María. El área afectada se colocará con letreros que adviertan al público que evite el contacto con el agua hasta que los resultados de la muestra indiquen que el agua es segura para uso recreativo, cuando la carretera hacia el Parque sea accesible. El contacto con aguas residuales contaminadas aumenta el riesgo de ciertos tipos de enfermedades.

Además, con las fuertes lluvias recientes, los Servicios de Salud Ambiental del Condado de Santa Bárbara quieren recordar a los residentes sobre los posibles riesgos para la salud asociados con la escorrentía de aguas pluviales en las playas de todo el condado. Las aguas pluviales son aguas pluviales no tratadas que fluyen a través del sistema de drenaje hacia los arroyos, el océano y otras vías fluviales. El contacto con aguas pluviales mientras nadas o surfeas puede aumentar el riesgo de ciertos tipos de enfermedades como erupciones cutáneas, fiebre, escalofríos, infecciones de oído, vómitos y diarrea. Para minimizar los posibles riesgos para la salud, se recomienda que las personas no naden, jueguen o surfeen en el océano y los arroyos durante al menos **tres días** después de un evento de lluvia. Los bañistas también deben evitar las áreas cercanas al desagüe de las tuberías de drenaje y arroyos que ingresan al océano después de un evento de lluvia, ya que la escorrentía de aguas pluviales puede transportar altos niveles de bacterias y contaminantes.

El Condado de Santa Bárbara implementa una variedad de programas para proteger la salud pública y mejorar la calidad ambiental de las cuencas hidrográficas y playas del Condado. Trabajar para mejorar la calidad del agua mediante la reducción o el tratamiento de las fuentes de contaminación es una tarea multifacética. Para saber qué se está haciendo para mejorar la calidad del agua y cómo puede ayudar, visite [www.sbprojectcleanwater.org](http://www.sbprojectcleanwater.org).