



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:
AVOID OCEAN WATER CONTACT DURING AND AFTER RAIN STORM EVENTS**

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is advising the public to avoid ocean water contact during, and at least three days following, significant rainstorm events.

Rainstorm runoff is known to transport to the ocean high levels of disease causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses and protozoan's originating from the watershed and urban areas. Such organisms carried into the ocean can cause skin, respiratory, and intestinal problems. People with compromised immune systems, plus the very young and elderly age groups are especially vulnerable to these waterborne pathogens.

Surfers and others ocean water contact enthusiasts are advised to avoid ocean water contact during this period, especially areas close to creeks, rivers, storm drains and other runoff outlets that empty into the ocean.

Environmental Health Services takes ocean water samples at 19 locations along the coast on a weekly basis and posts the results at www.surfsafeslo.org. Results of the weekly ocean water quality samples are also available by calling the Ocean Water Monitoring Program hotline at (805) 788-3411.

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