



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Date:** January 16, 2019  
**Issued by:** Leslie Terry REHS, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist  
County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department, 805-781-4917

**Contact:** Matt Cyester, City of San Luis Obispo, 805-781-7215 (office), 805-431-7148 (cell)

**Background:**

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13271, the local health officer and the director of environmental health shall immediately notify the public of a discharge of a hazardous substance or sewage to the waters of the state if it is necessary to safeguard public health and safety.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following report was received from the following person or entity on the date set forth below:**

**REPORTING PERSON OR ENTITY NAME:**

County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 1489, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

**PHONE:** 805-781-5544 (Regular Business Hours)

**SUBSTANCE OF REPORT:**

1. At approximately 7:15 a.m. on January 16, 2019, approximately 3,000 gallons of sewage were released from a mainline located at 3355 Broad Street to an adjacent storm drain that leads to Acacia Creek in the City of San Luis Obispo.
2. The release was stopped, contained, and cleanup was complete at approximately 9:01 a.m.
3. Cause of sewage release from the mainline was due to a mainline blockage.
4. The Public Health Department advises staying out of Acacia Creek during and 72 hours following the current storm event. Representatives from the County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health have been on scene to assure appropriate measures were taken to properly clean and sanitize the area. Signs have been posted at Damon Garcia fields advising the public to avoid water contact at this time.

**The Health Officer of San Luis Obispo County has made the following determinations:**

The reporting person or entity is considered to be reliable and the Health Officer has been unable to make an independent investigation.

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**County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency**

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- After investigation, the Health Officer draws the following conclusions with respect to the report: The information from the City of San Luis Obispo has been diligently reported.

**Legality of Discharge:**

- Illegal
- Legal
- No determination possible because: Regional Water Quality Control Board has the authority over this question.

**Likelihood that the discharge would be injurious to public health or safety:**

- Likely:
- Unlikely: The sewage spill was responded to by San Luis Obispo City personnel who cleared the blockage; they employed a vacuum truck to remove the sewage and sanitized areas. Acacia Creek is difficult for the public to access except in the vicinity of Damon Garcia soccer fields. Creek areas in the vicinity of Damon Garcia are fenced and not open to the public.
- No determination possible at this time because:

**Leslie Terry for Dr. Penny Borenstein**  
**Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer**

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**January 16, 2019**

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