

Oceanside Beach Water Quality Receives “A” Grades

The City of Oceanside strives to keep ocean water healthy to protect the health of people recreating in the near shore waters. Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization from the Los Angeles area, routinely analyzes west coast water quality data and grades beaches based on that water quality analysis. The A-to-F grades assigned to each location represent the risk of adverse health effects to beachgoers. The better the grade a beach receives, the lower the risk of contracting an illness from water recreation at that location. Oceanside is proud to report that for the 2012-13 year, Oceanside beaches received Grades A or A+ in the Heal the Bay Beach Report Card (BRC).

Water samples are analyzed for bacteria that indicate pollution from numerous sources. Storm drain runoff is the greatest source of pollution to local beaches, flowing untreated to the coast and potentially contaminated with motor oil, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, yard waste and trash. Within San Diego County, there are five agencies that gather monitoring information:

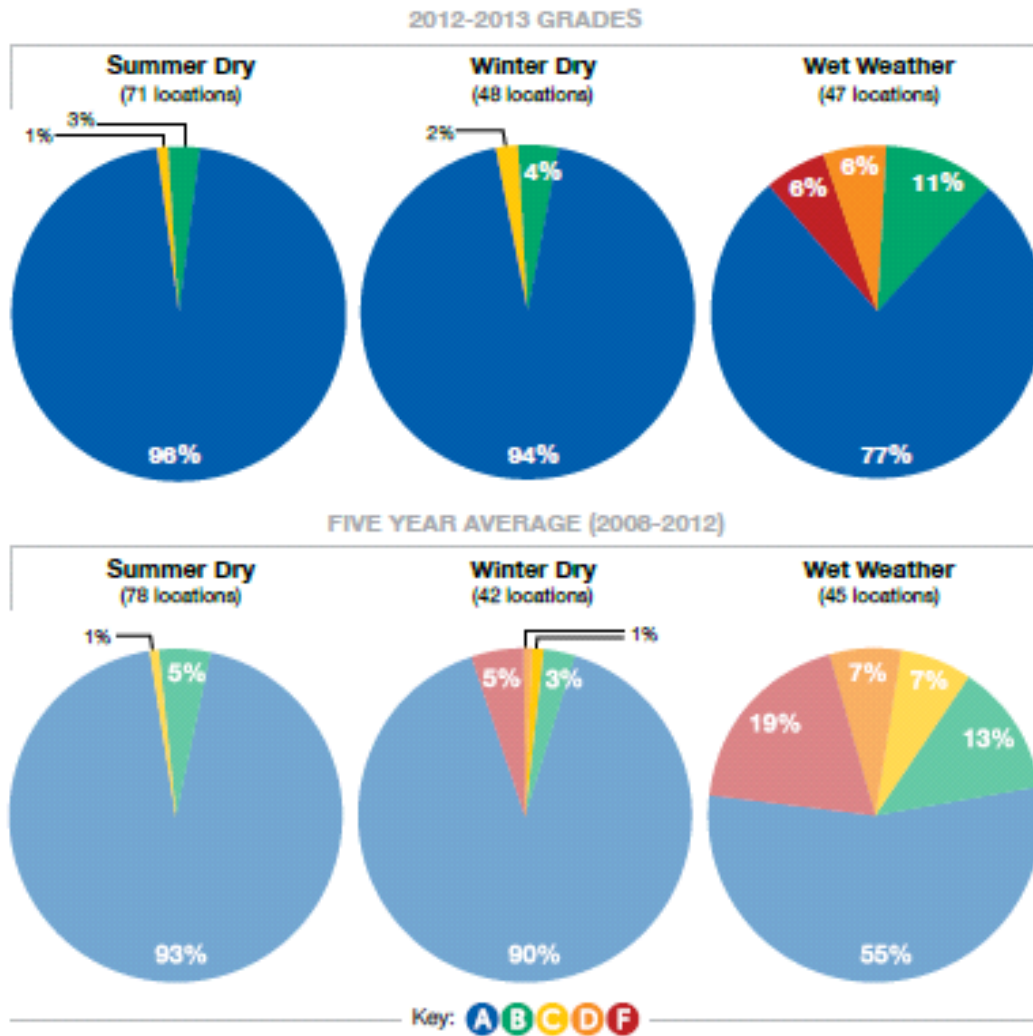
- The City of Oceanside
- The City of San Diego
- Encina Wastewater Authority
- San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
- The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH)

Information from these agencies is then used by Heal the Bay to grade the beaches and develop the BRC. The table below represents the assigned grades for each of the Oceanside beaches that were analyzed in the report.



Oceanside	Summer Dry (April-Oct)	Winter Dry (Nov-Mar)	Wet Weather Year-Round
San Luis Rey River outlet	A	A	A+
Tyson Street	A	A+	A+
Forster Street	A+	A+	A+
500' north of Loma Alta Creek outlet	A+	A+	A+
Buccaneer Beach at Loma Alta Creek	A+		
Cassidy Street	A	A+	A+
St. Malo Beach, down coast from St. Malo Road	A+	A+	A+

In addition to Oceanside, most San Diego County beaches received high grades in the BRC. The figure below illustrates San Diego County’s water quality grades for this past year compared to the previous five-year average



A copy of the full report can be found at http://www.healthebay.org/sites/default/files/pdf/beachreportcard/BRC_2013_WEB.pdf.

You can help protect water quality by remembering and following the simple phrase “Only Rain in the Storm Drain”. For more information on how you can protect water quality log onto www.OceansideCleanWaterProgram.org.