PRESS RELEASE
April 26, 2017

BEACH CLOSED DUE TO SEWAGE SPILL

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) -- The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued a “BEACH CLOSED” notice today in response to a spill of untreated sewage.

The spill involved in excess of 1000 gallons of sewage and occurred at the intersection of Nogal Drive and Nueces Drive. The untreated sewage flowed into the Cieneguitas Creek that discharges at Goleta Beach. As a result, Goleta Beach has been closed to recreational water contact for ¼ mile on either side of Goleta Slough outfall. The affected area has been posted with signs warning the public to avoid contact with the water until sample results indicate the water is safe for recreational use.

The presence of contaminants in water can lead to adverse health effects, including gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, and neurological disorders. Infants, young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people whose immune systems are compromised because of AIDS, chemotherapy, or transplant medications, may be especially susceptible to illness from some contaminants.

The public is advised to wait until at least 10 days to harvest shellfish in the affected area. Because they are filter feeders, shellfish from contaminated waters represent an elevated risk of disease if consumed.

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