



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 5, 2017

Contact: Richard Lichtenfels, R.E.H.S., M.P.H.
Environmental Health Services Division
(805) 781-5544

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 protozoans 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, as well as the very young and elderly are especially vulnerable to these waterborne pathogens.

Surfers and other ocean water 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.

For more information about beach water quality, please visit the Public Health Department Beach Water Quality website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/ehs/beach, or call the Ocean Water Monitoring Program Telephone Hotline at (805) 788-3411.

#