



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 14, 2019
Issued By: Laurie Salo, REHS, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist

Contact: John Hill, California Men's Colony, 805-547-7948

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, Suite B, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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

SUBSTANCE OF REPORT:

1. At approximately 10:13 a.m. on November 14, 2019, approximately 33,000 gallons of sewage was release from the California Men's Colony. The ultraviolet system lost power at the prison causing the premature release of the material, therefore the sewage was treated to secondary standards but failed to go through the final UV treatment process.
2. The release has stopped but did impact Chorro Creek.
3. The Public Health Department advises staying out of Chorro Creek and estuary following the release. 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.
4. Signs have been posted in areas impacted by the sewage spill.

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.
- 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 the County of San Luis Obispo personnel who observed cleaning and sainting of the areas. Chorro Creek is difficult for the public to access except in the vicinity of the estuary.
- No determination possible at this time because:

Laurie Salo for Dr. Penny Borenstein

Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer

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