



Press Release: Water Sampling Results from Untreated Wastewater Release to Ocean

January 21, 2018

As a result of an equipment control failure at the Monterey One Water Regional Treatment Plant in Marina, approximately 4.4 million gallons of untreated wastewater were inadvertently discharged into the Monterey Bay through the ocean outfall discharge pipe 2.5 miles off shore. This event occurred late Friday evening (1/19) and into the early morning hours of Saturday (1/20). Because of this release, Monterey County Health Department immediately issued beach closures from Moss Landing to Stillwater Cove. The Health Department is advising the public not to have any ocean contact at this time. Information on beach closures can be found at www.mtyhd.org/beach or call 1-800-347-6363.

Five water samples from local beaches and eleven samples from the receiving surface water (RSW) surrounding the outfall pipe were obtained on Saturday. Sampling from the same local beach locations plus two more sites occurred on Sunday. All eleven of the open ocean results from the Saturday sampling event were below the Ocean Plan limits for Total Coliform, E. coli and Enterococcus. For the five local beach samples taken on Saturday, only one sample (Monterey Wharf #2) had an elevated Enterococcus measurement of 108 MPN/100mL. The single sample limit for Enterococcus is 104 MPN/100mL.

Sampling results for the seven local beach locations will be made available on Monday afternoon. The Agency is continuing to investigate the cause of this event and will post new information including additional sampling results on the Agency's website as soon as it becomes available.

For any additional information regarding the wastewater release, please contact Paul Sciuto, General Manager for Monterey One Water, at paul@my1water.org or 831-645-4600 or Mike McCullough, Government Affairs Administrator, at mikem@my1water.org or 831-645-4618.