



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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PRESS RELEASE

October 29, 2021

Pacifica State Beach (Linda Mar Beach) Open

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Pacifica, CA) – On Sunday evening, October 24, 2021, the City of Pacifica closed Pacifica State Beach (Linda Mar Beach). The City experienced significant impacts from the storm that hit the Bay Area over the weekend of October 23, 2021, which included water intrusion into the City's sewer system overwhelming the City's Linda Mar Pump Station. As has happened in the past with large storm events, the City was forced to bypass some of the Pump Station flow to the beach outflow pipe. Once this occurs, the City is required to close Pacifica State beach for a minimum of three days or when ocean bacteria testing results allow for reopening. The County of San Mateo Health Department notified the City on the afternoon of Friday the 29th that the beach could be reopened to the public following review of the ocean testing.

The City's recently completed Wet Weather Equalization Basin project (EQ Basin) significantly reduced the impact from the storm on the City's sewer system and the City. The EQ Basin filled to capacity during the storm preventing 2.1 million gallons of sewer effluent from spilling onto City streets in the lower Linda Mar area. In addition, use of the EQ Basin for the overflow allowed the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant (CCWRP) to continue to operate without failure, and process 17 million gallons/day of sewage during the storm when it typically processes 4 million gallons/day. The City's basin and the wet weather basin in Redwood City are sized for a 10-year 24-hour storm, which is a larger storm design than the other three wet weather basins in the area.

The rainstorm dropped over 6.87 inches of rain during a 24-hour period (Weather Underground's Linda Mar weather station), which based on the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data has a 1-in-100 chance of happening each year in Pacifica. Similar bypasses or sanitary sewer overflows also happened to many other wastewater systems throughout the bay area due to the heavy rainfall.

For more information, contact: Lisa Petersen, Director of Public Works, lpetersen@pacifica.gov or (650) 738-3770.