



COUNTY OF MARIN

NEWS RELEASE

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Sewage Release into Corte Madera Creek

There were releases of sewage from sanitary sewage manholes and lines in Kentfield in the areas of: Kent Middle School; Stadium & McAllister Aves; Laurel & Locust Aves; College & Magnolia Streets on December 17, 2010 and another release on December 22, 2010 from manholes north of South Eliseo Drive and Bon Air Road. It was reported that approximately 3 million gallons of sewage from both incidents flowed into Corte Madera Creek.

Water samples along Corte Madera Creek were collected daily during the weeks since December 20, and tested for compliance with the State Public Beach Sanitation and Ocean Water-Contact Sports bacteriological standards. The bacteriological levels have reduced significantly since the first week of the sewage releases and stabilized during the week of January 3 through 7, 2011. However, the bacteriological levels have not consistently reached compliance levels.

Due to the lack of historical background bacteriological information of the Corte Madera Creek, the effects of the rain, the comparisons to the upstream (unaffected water), and the stabilization of the bacteriological levels, it has been concluded that the waters of the Creek may naturally be higher than the compliance levels and will probably not reach the state standards. The collection of water samples for testing has been suspended and the "contaminated water" signs will be removed from along Corte Madera Creek and the impacted areas.

Please note that recreational bathing and boating in Corte Madera Creek and at the mouth to San Francisco Bay is at the individuals' risk.

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