

VENTURA COUNTY OCEAN WATER QUALITY REPORT

2023-
2024





BLUE WATER TASK FORCE

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OVERVIEW

THE BLUE WATER TASK FORCE (BWTF) IS SURFRIDER FOUNDATION'S VOLUNTEER-RUN, WATER QUALITY TESTING, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM.

VENTURA COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION ([HTTPS://VCRMA.ORG/EN/OCEAN-WATER-QUALITY-RESULTS](https://vcrma.org/en/ocean-water-quality-results)), TESTS OCEAN WATER QUALITY AT 40 SITES DURING SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR, REDUCING VENTURA COUNTY'S OCEAN WATER TESTING DURING THE WET WINTER MONTHS.

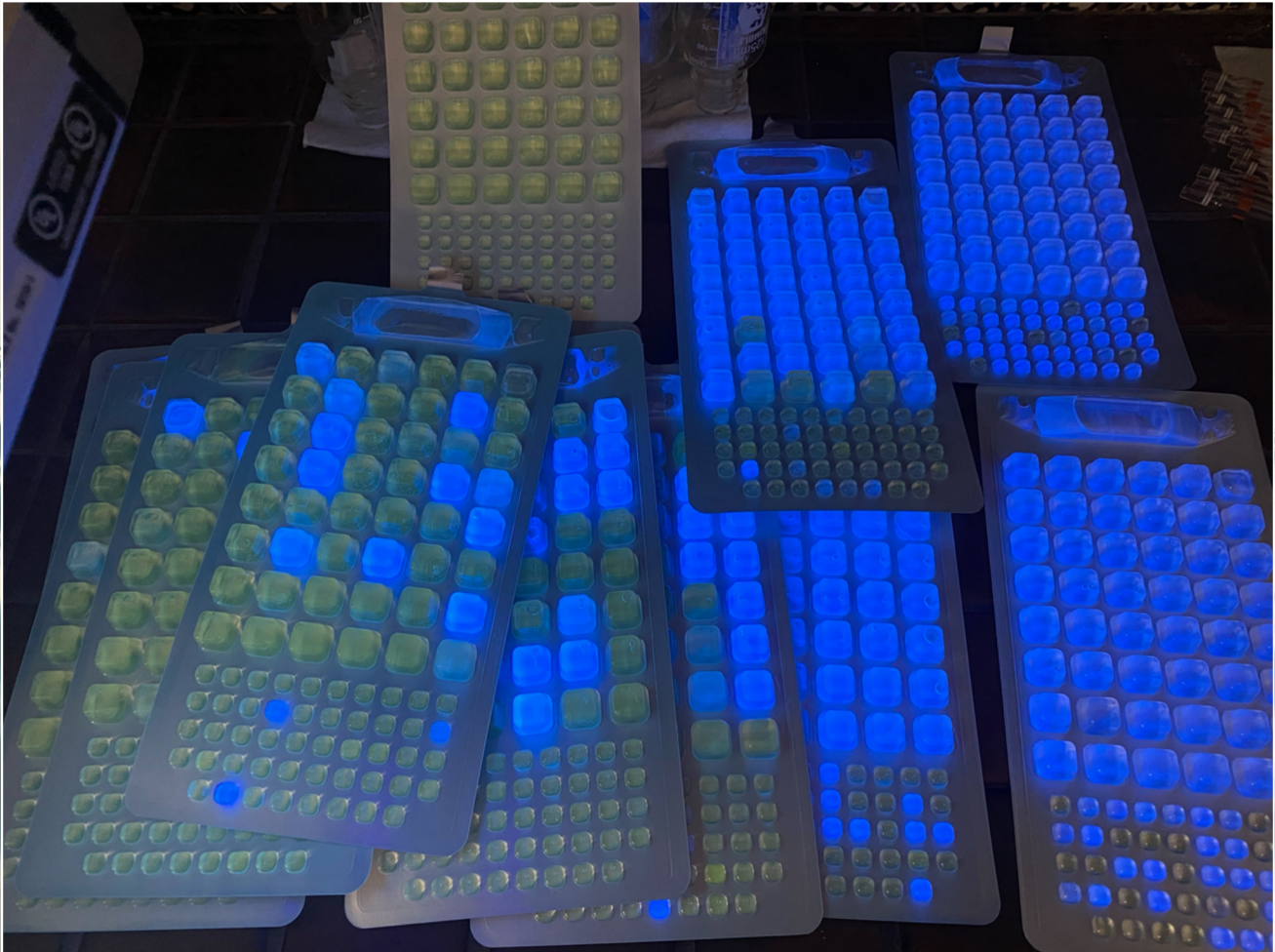
VENTURA COUNTY'S TEMPERATE WINTER CLIMATE ALLOWS RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS TO RECREATE AT BEACHES AND HARBORS YEAR ROUND. THIS EXPOSES FAMILIES, SWIMMERS, KAYAKERS, SURFERS, AMONG OTHERS, TO WATER POLLUTANTS BROUGHT TO THE BEACH BY STORMWATER FROM URBAN OR AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF.

SURFRIDERVC'S PROGRAM SAMPLES AT 16 SITES FROM NOVEMBER TO MARCH:

MONDOS COVE & DRAIN, VENTURA RIVERMOUTH, SURFER'S POINT (DUNES AT SEASIDE PARK, C STREET & DRAIN), SANJON RD, WEYMOUTH LANE & DRAIN, MARINA PARK IN FRONT OF PLAYGROUND, LEO ROBBINS SAILING CENTER, VENTURA HARBOR COVE, OXNARD BEACH AT OUTRIGGER WAY, HOLLYWOOD BEACH AT LA CRESCENTA ST, SILVER STRAND AT SAN NICHOLAS AVE, PORT HUENEME BEACH PARK

WHAT DO WE TEST FOR?

Enterococcus is an indicator bacteria that highlights the presence of both bacteria and viruses that can cause waterborne illness in humans through contact with ocean water.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY STANDARDS

Minimum California Safety Standard is less than 104 organisms per 100 mL of sampled water.

Enterococcus		
Low	34 cfu/100mL	Safe
Medium	35-103 cfu/100mL	Caution
High	104 cfu/100mL	Unsafe

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND EPA STANDARDS,
TEST RESULTS IN THIS STUDY ARE PRESENTED IN MPN/100ML

RARE INSTANCES OF SITES NOT BEING SAMPLED WERE DUE TO
LACK OF DRAIN FLOW OR UNSAFE SURF, TIDE, AND WEATHER
CONDITIONS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WATER BORNE ILLNESS?

Enterococcus bacteria indicate fecal pollution (human or animal waste) and other pathogens that are also found in fecal matter that can make people sick with the stomach flu, rashes, eye and ear infections and other serious viral infections.



OUTFALL CONSTRUCTION



The City of Ventura began construction in August, 2023, at Marina Park and the Ventura Harbor to construct an ocean outfall extending approximately 6,800 feet offshore.

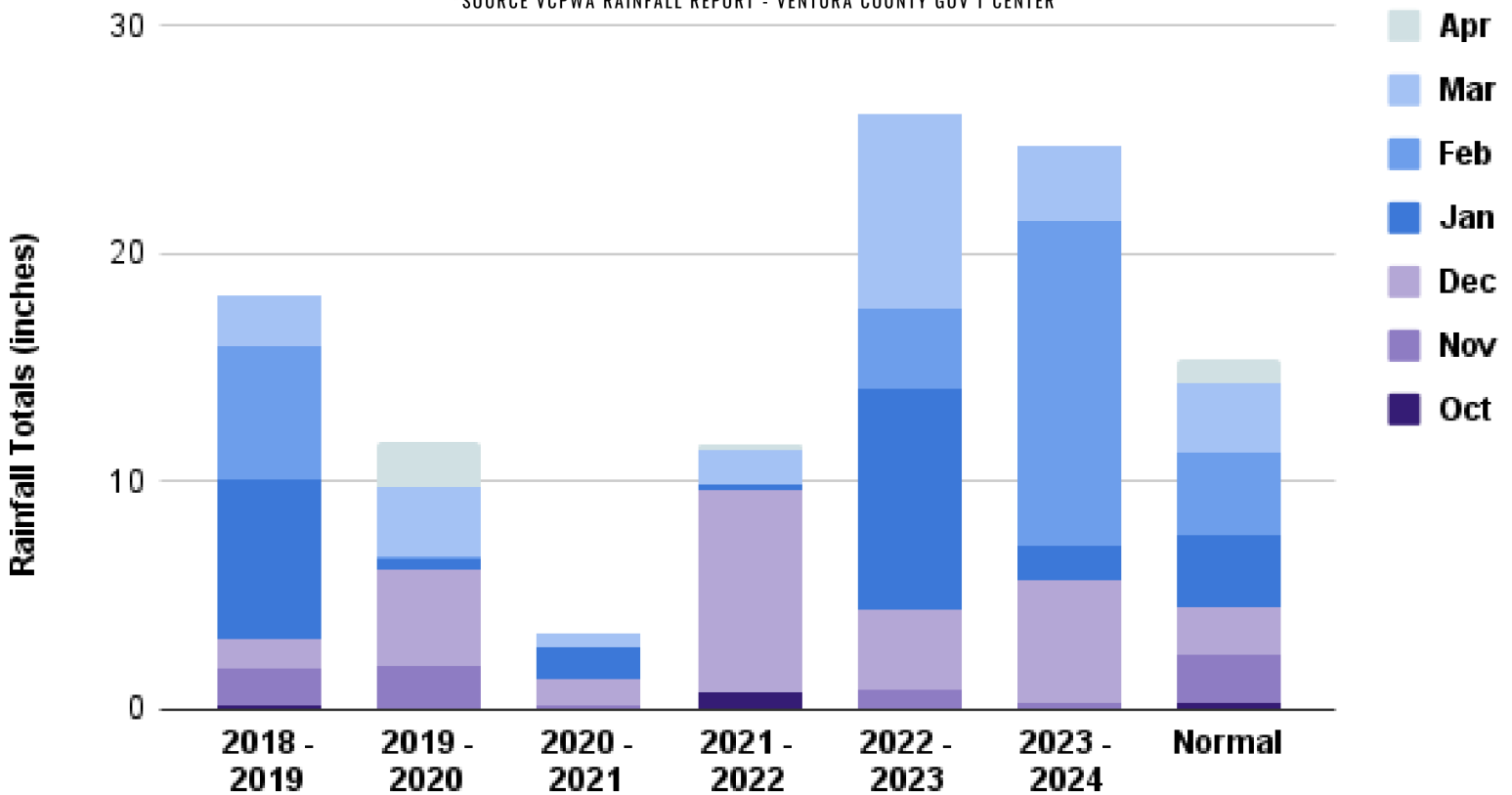
The outfall and associated pipeline will ultimately dispose of concentrated "brine" from the planned "Ventura Water Pure" wastewater recycling facility, instead of sending treated wastewater to the Santa Clara River estuary. Marina Park is our most chronically bacteria impacted beach due to flow from the Greenock Lane drainage system.

For full project details, read Paul Jenkin's Ventura River Ecosystem blog here:
<https://www.venturariver.org/2023/04/ventura-water-pure-ocean-outfall.html>

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: PART 1 RAINFALL = STORMWATER

Rainfall Totals for City of Ventura from 2018 - 2024

*SOURCE VCPWA RAINFALL REPORT - VENTURA COUNTY GOV'T CENTER

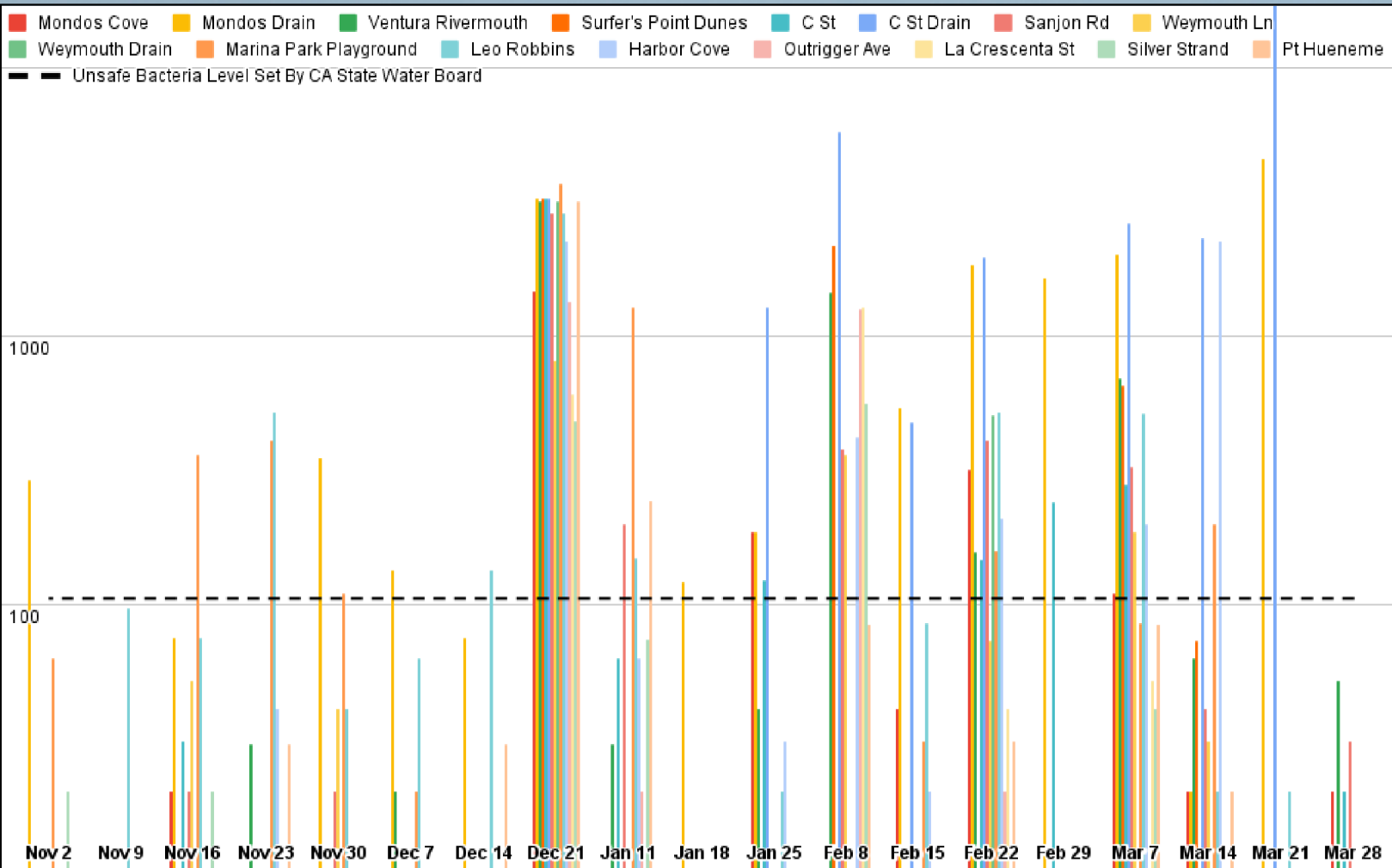


Normal rainfall in Ventura shows an ideal, consistent rainfall season, as compared to the past 6 years where Ventura typically garners its rainfall from major rain events in a one or two months.

During the 5 months of testing from November through March 2024, Ventura received 24.68 inches of rainfall. February accounted for over half of that rainfall at 14.25 inches.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: PART 2

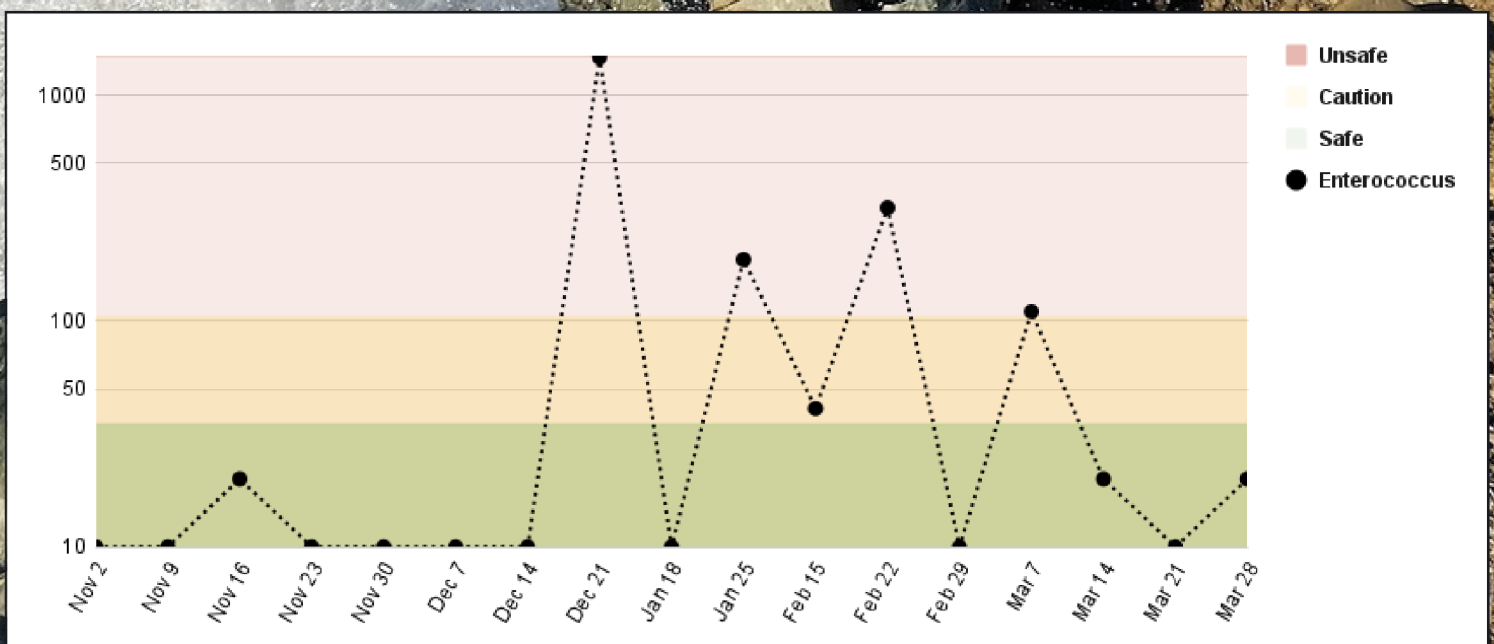
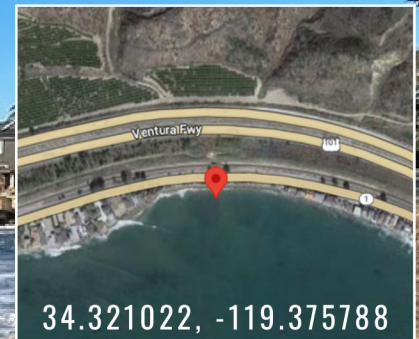
STORMWATER = INCREASED PRESENCE OF ENTEROCOCCUS BACTERIA



Major rainfall events in December 2023 and February 2024 correlate with spikes in enterococcus fecal bacteria at many testing sites.

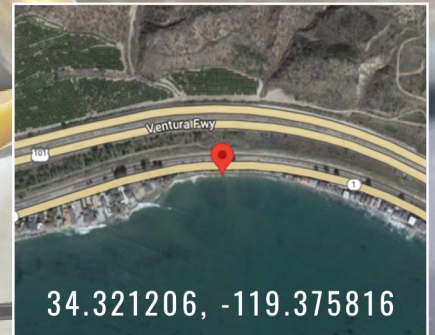
RESULTS BY SITE: MONDO'S COVE

24%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

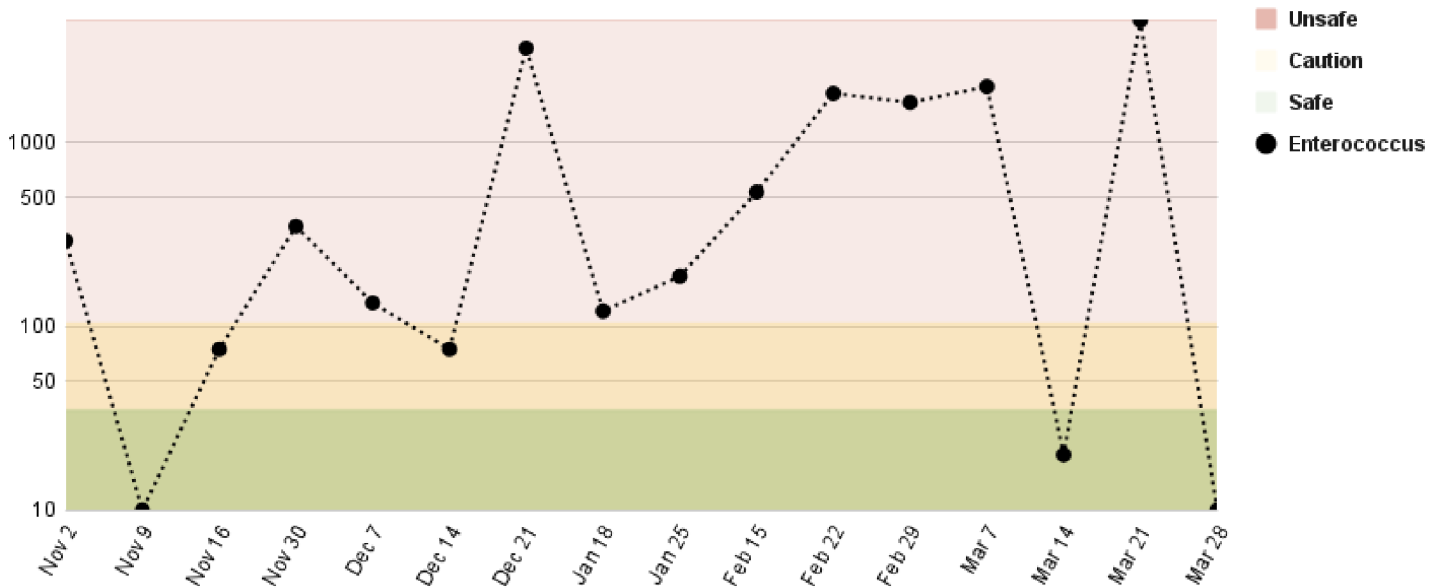


RESULTS BY SITE: MONDO'S DRAIN

LINE CANYON OIL PRODUCTION OPERATIONS HAVE DRAINED INTO OUR NORTHERN VENTURA COUNTY WATERSHEDS SINCE 2013. THE BASEFLOW HAS BEEN FLOWING PERENNIALY EVEN AT A CONSTANT RATE DURING DROUGHT AND RAIN STORMS INTO MONDOS.



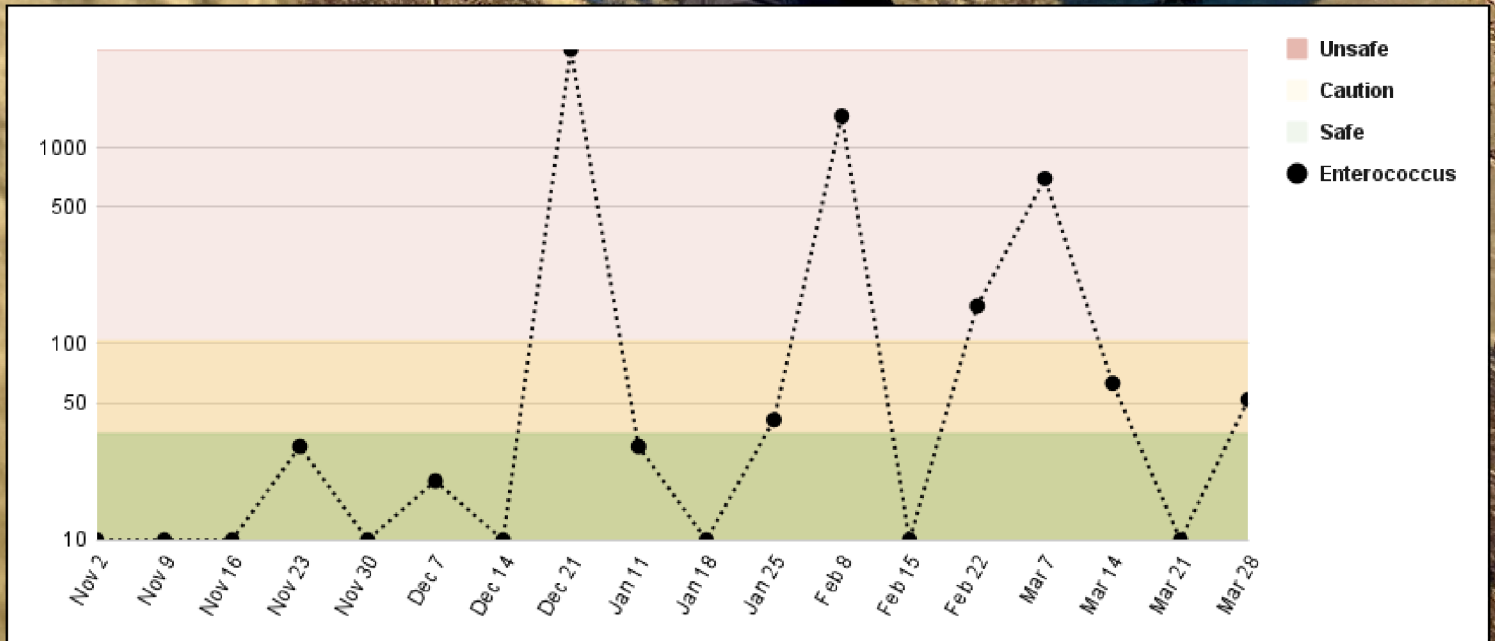
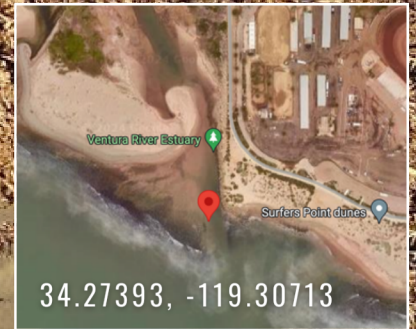
69%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



RESULTS BY SITE: VENTURA RIVERMOUTH

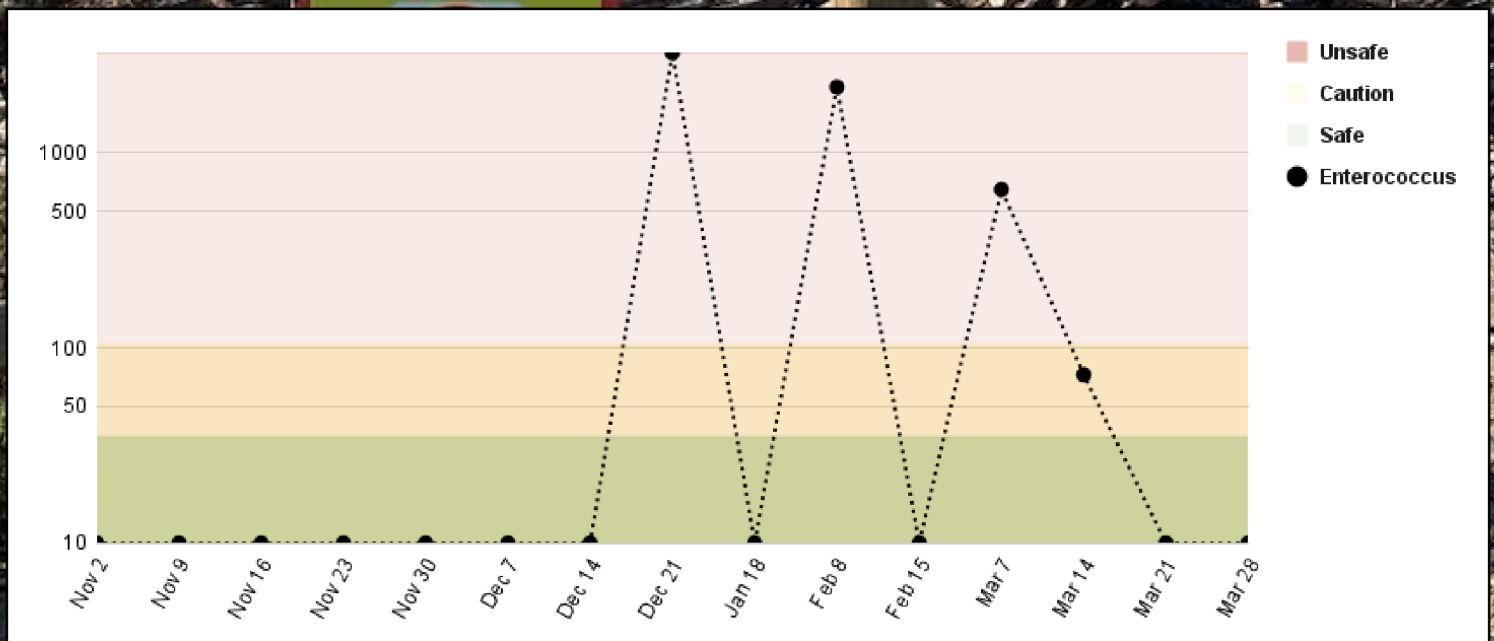
THE VENTURA RIVERMOUTH ALONG WITH OUR OTHER SITES WAS ONLY SAMPLED 15 TIMES COMPARED TO OUR USUAL 20 WEEKLY SAMPLES THIS SEASON DUE TO HIGH SURF AND THE FEBRUARY 22, 2024 SEWAGE SPILL INTO THE VENTURA RIVER.

22%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



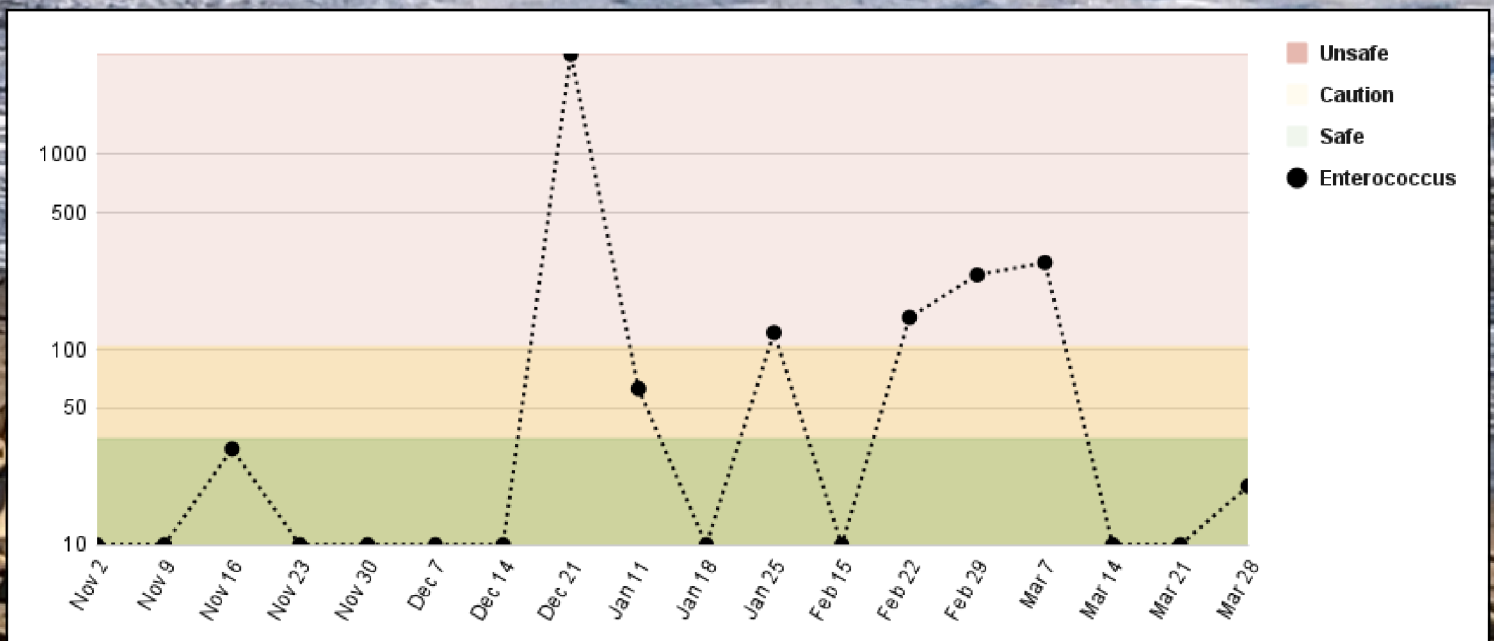
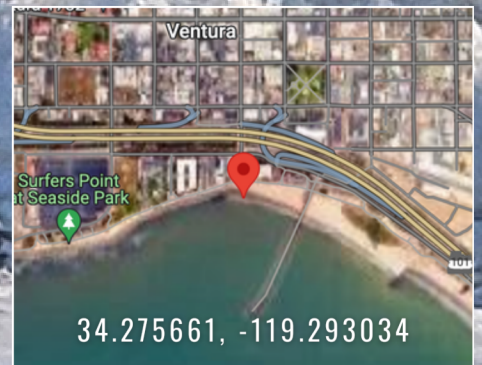
RESULTS BY SITE: SURFER'S POINT AT DUNES

20%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



RESULTS BY SITE: C STREET

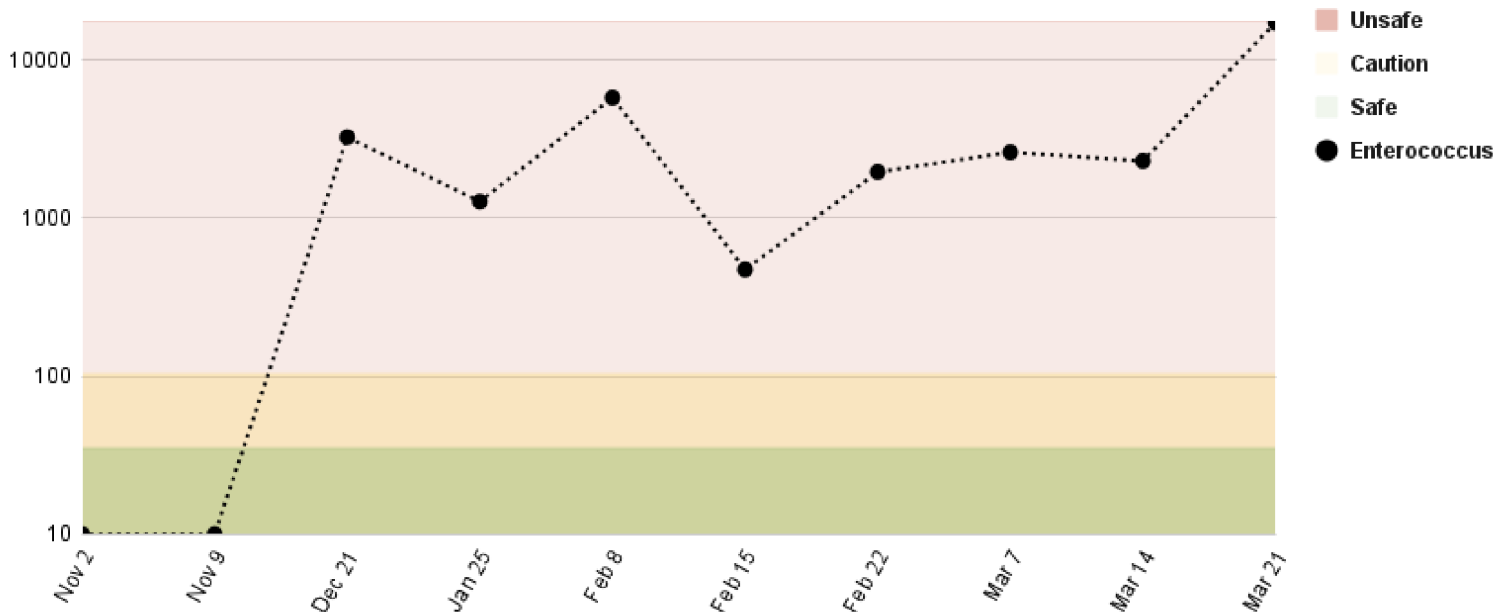
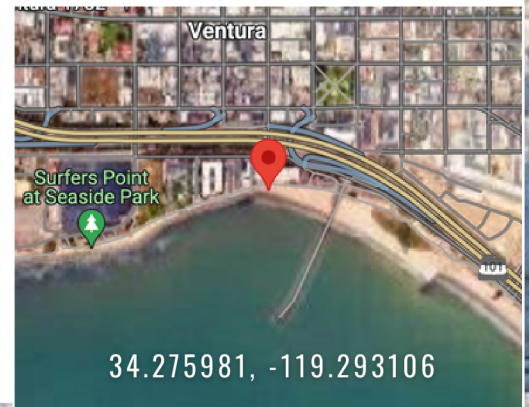
28%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



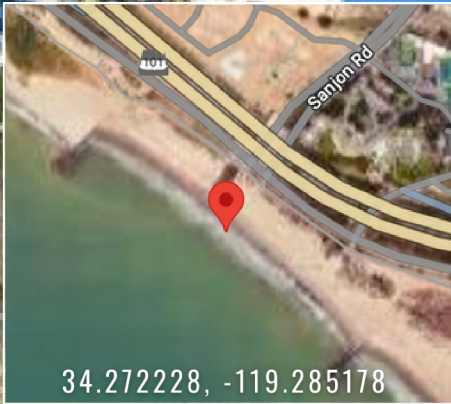
RESULTS BY SITE: C STREET DRAIN

WHEN THE C STREET DRAIN RUNS TO THE OCEAN AFTER HEAVY STORM EVENTS, STORMWATER COMES FROM SEVERAL CITY STREET DRAINS, LIKELY CARRYING HIGH LOADS OF BACTERIA WHERE THE WATER STREAMS ACROSS THE SAND. IF WATER IS POOLED THERE DURING DRY PERIODS, WE RECOMMEND NOT MAKING CONTACT WITH IT

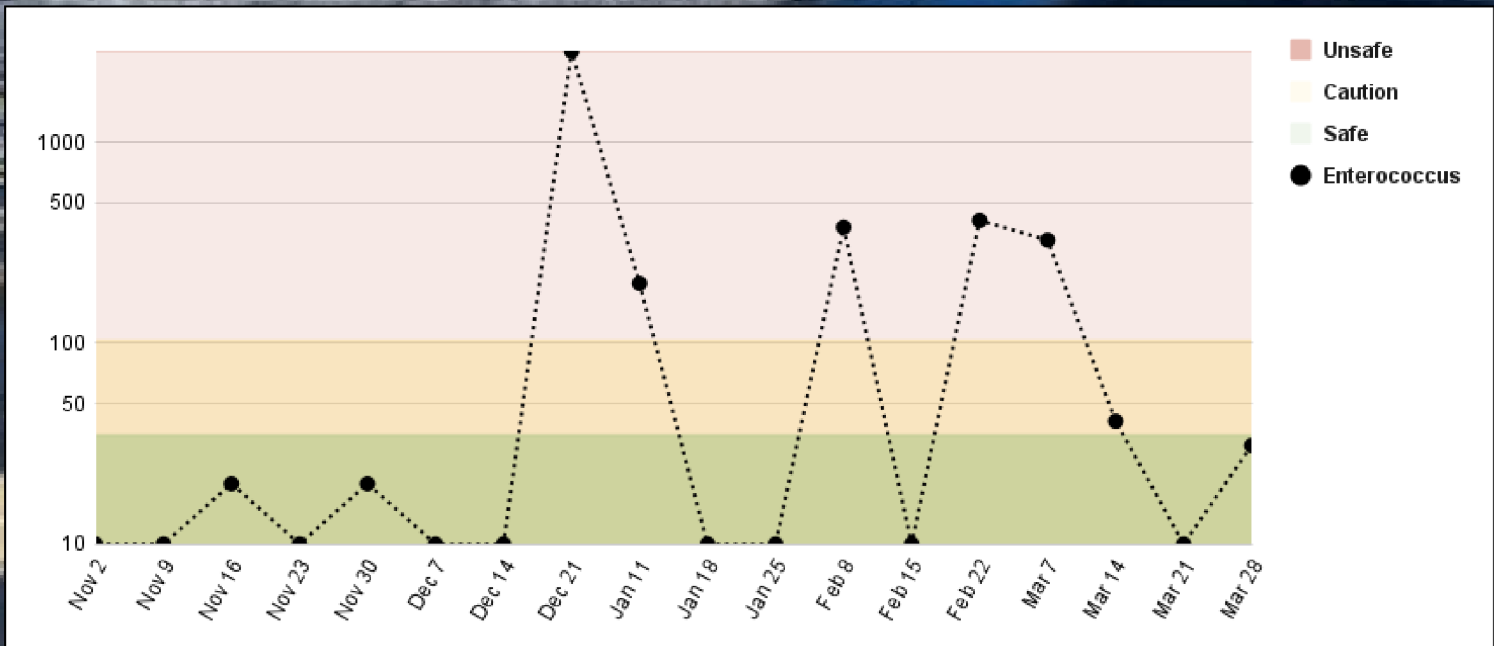
80%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



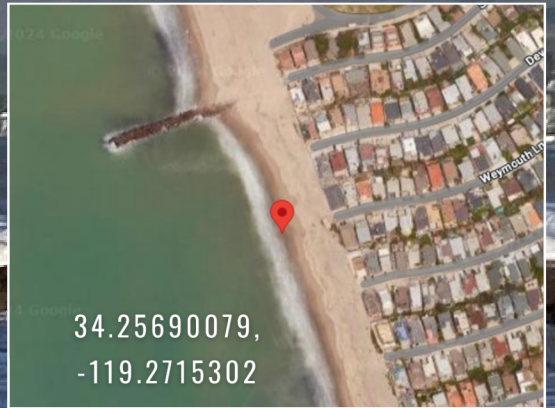
RESULTS BY SITE: SANJON RD



28%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

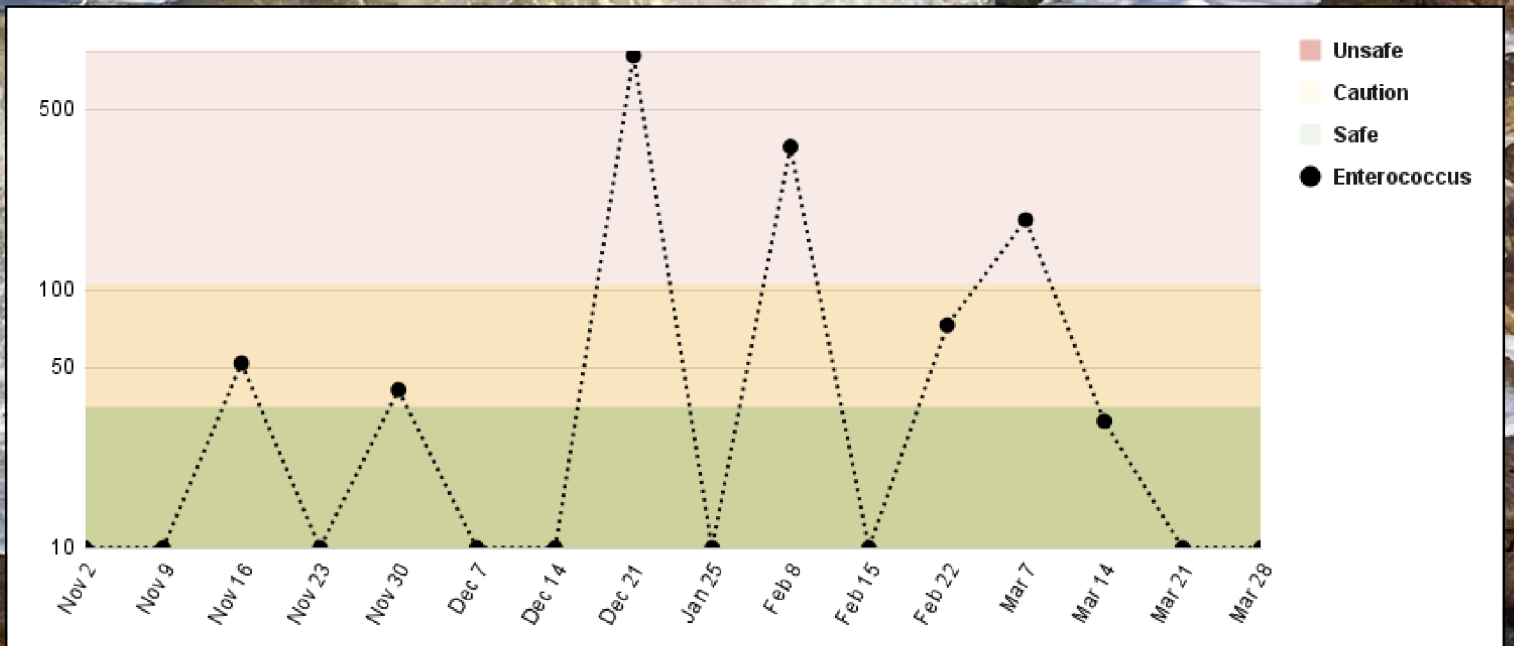


RESULTS BY SITE: WEYMOUTH LANE



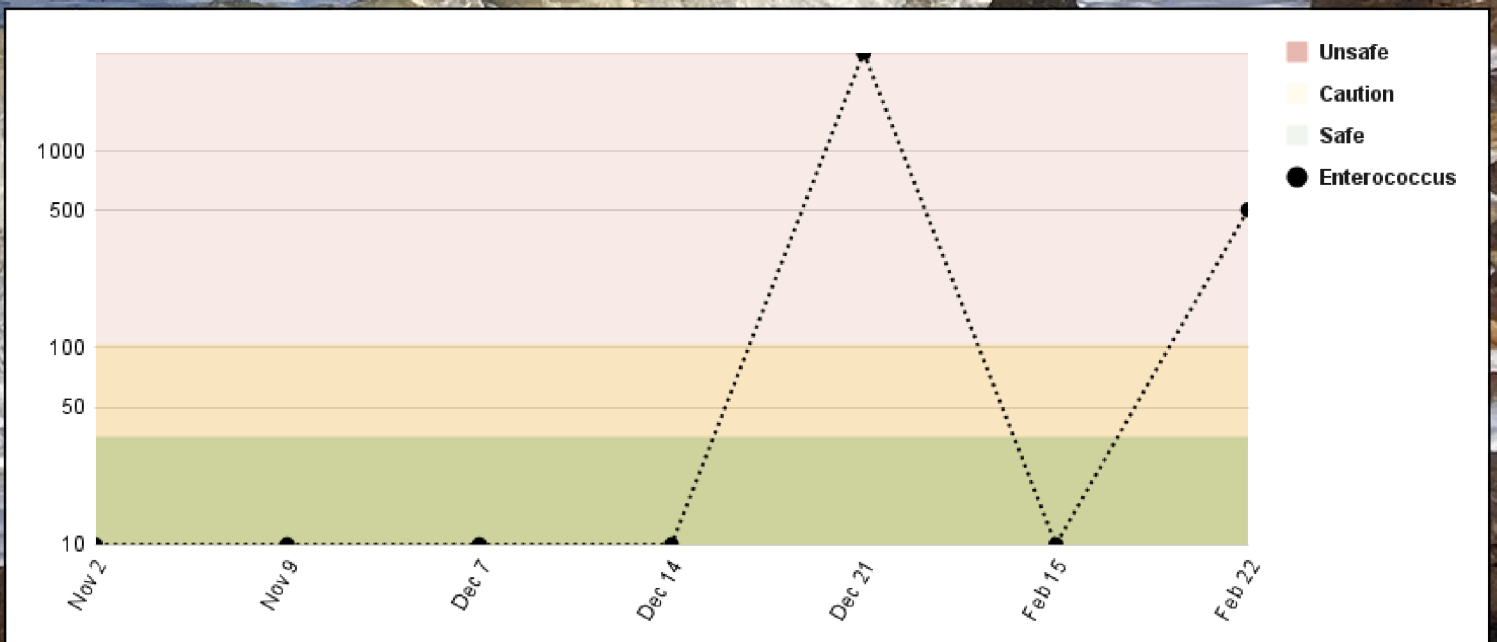
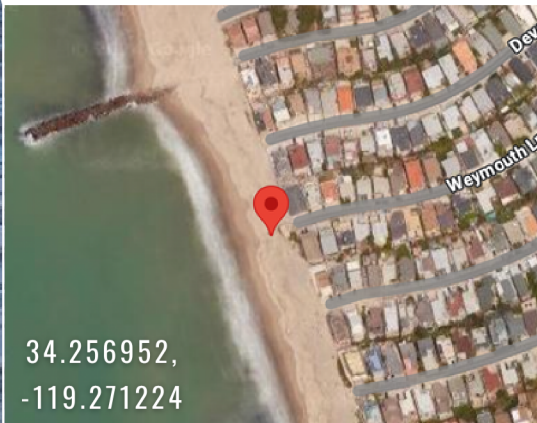
34.25690079,
-119.2715302

19%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

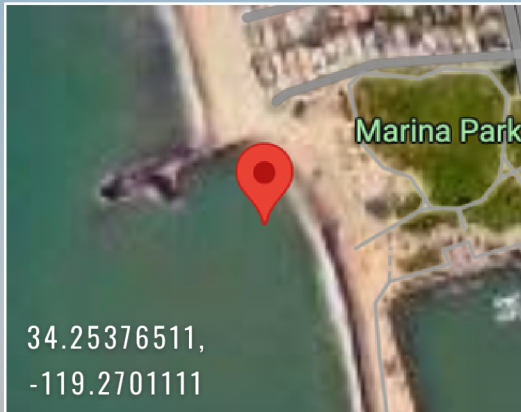


RESULTS BY SITE: WEYMOUTH DRAIN

29%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

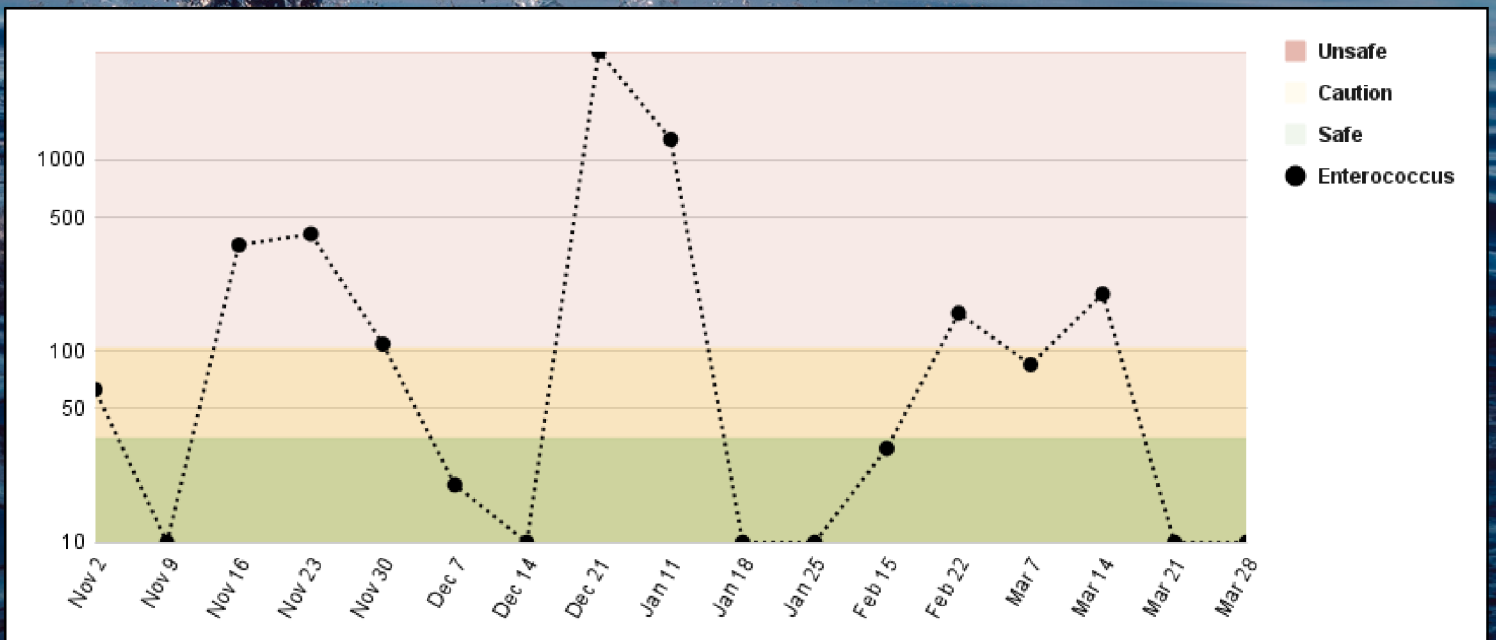


RESULTS BY SITE: MARINA PARK PLAYGROUND

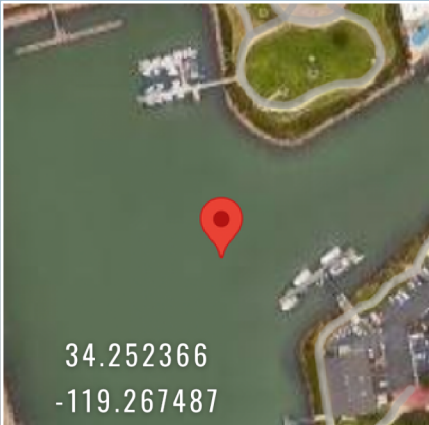


41%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

MARINA PARK REMAINS OUR
PRIORITY SITE FOR SAMPLING AND
MONITORING SINCE THIS POPULAR
BEACH IS CHRONICALLY POLLUTED
FROM GREENOCK LANE OUTFALL.

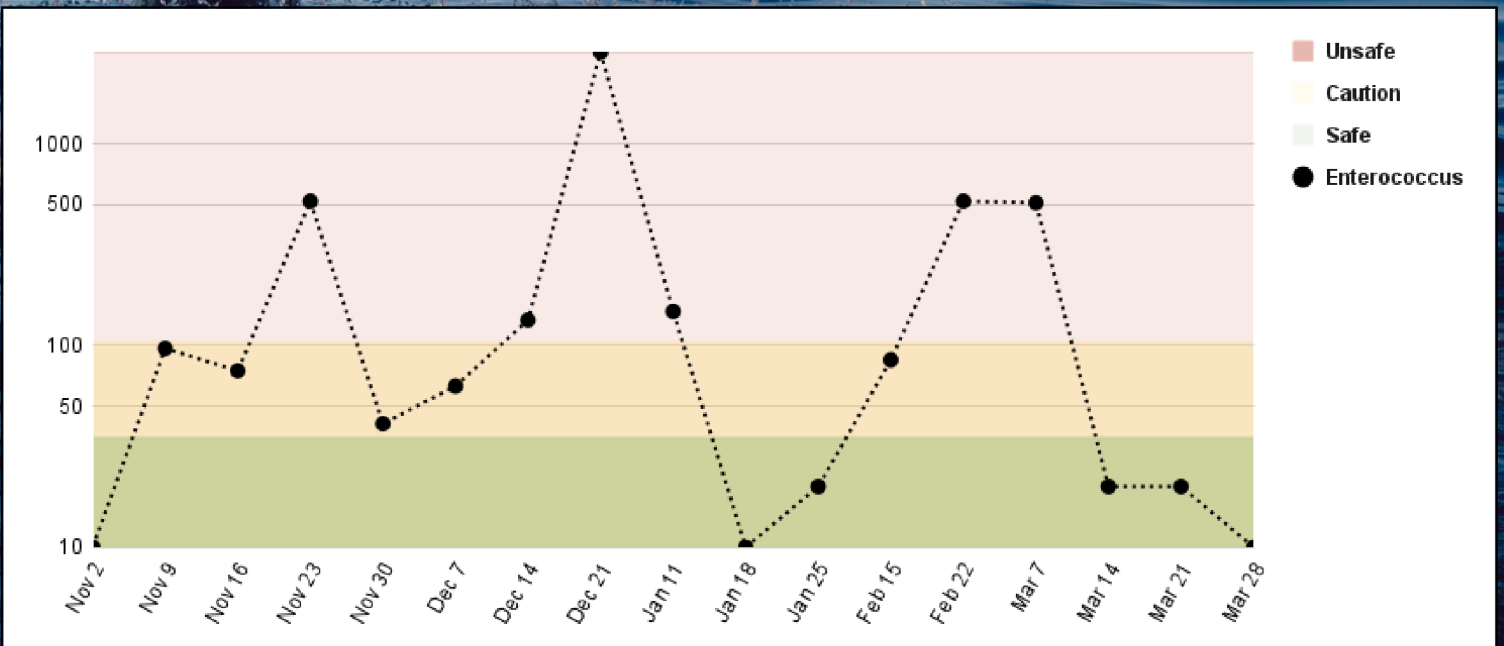


RESULTS BY SITE: LEO ROBBINS



35%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

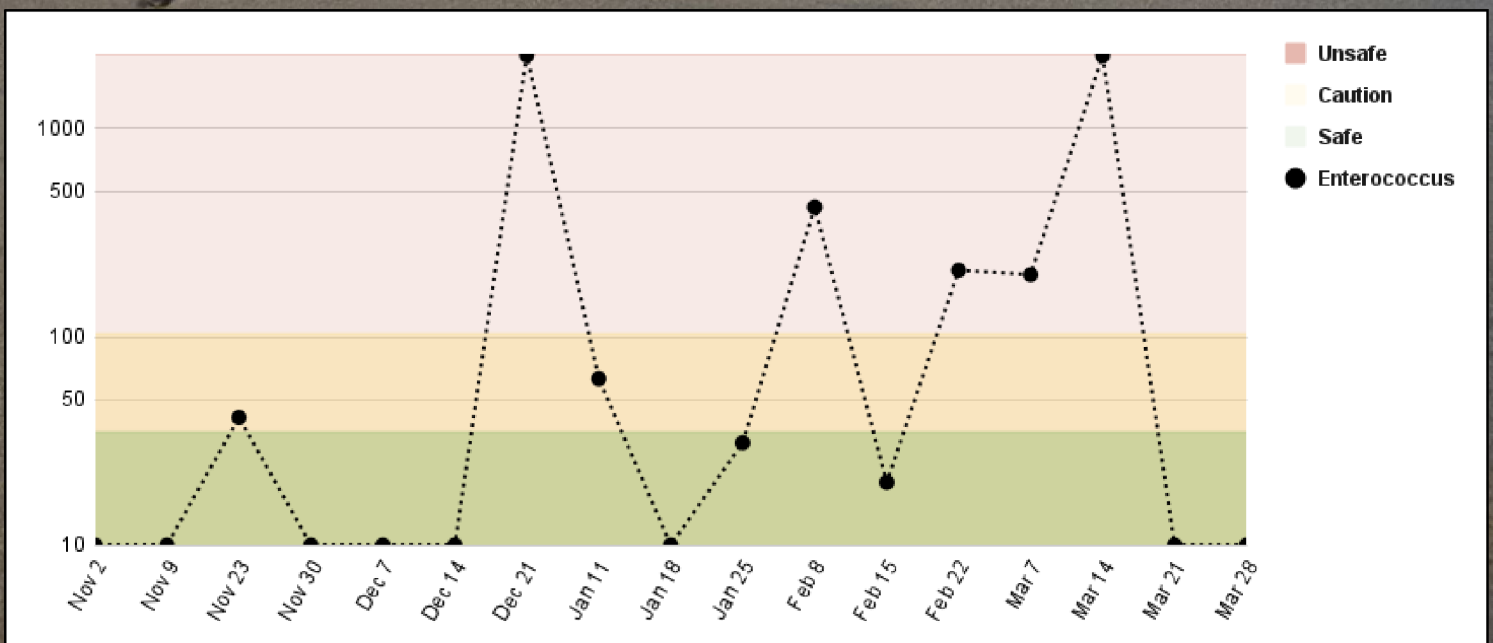
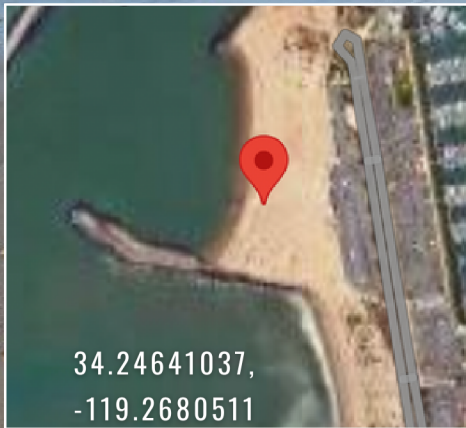
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION IS THE ONLY LOCAL ENTITY TESTING AT THIS POPULAR KAYAK AND SAILBOAT LAUNCH. LEO ROBBINS' DESIGN AS PART OF VENTURA HARBOR HAS LESS WATER CIRCULATION THAT HELPS OXYGENATE AND CLEAR BACTERIA IMPACTED OCEAN WATER.



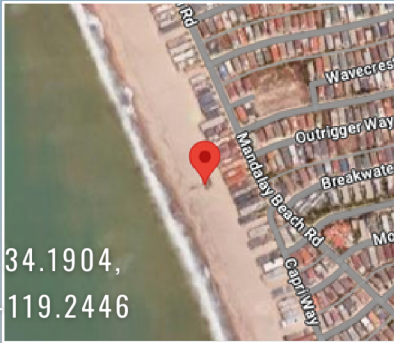
RESULTS BY SITE: HARBOR COVE

29%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

ALSO KNOWN AS "MOM'S BEACH" FOR ITS GENTLE WAVES, OCEAN SWIMMERS ARE ABLE TO SWIM LAPS IN THE SALT WATER COVE. ANNUAL DREDGING HERE CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER BACTERIA COUNTS.

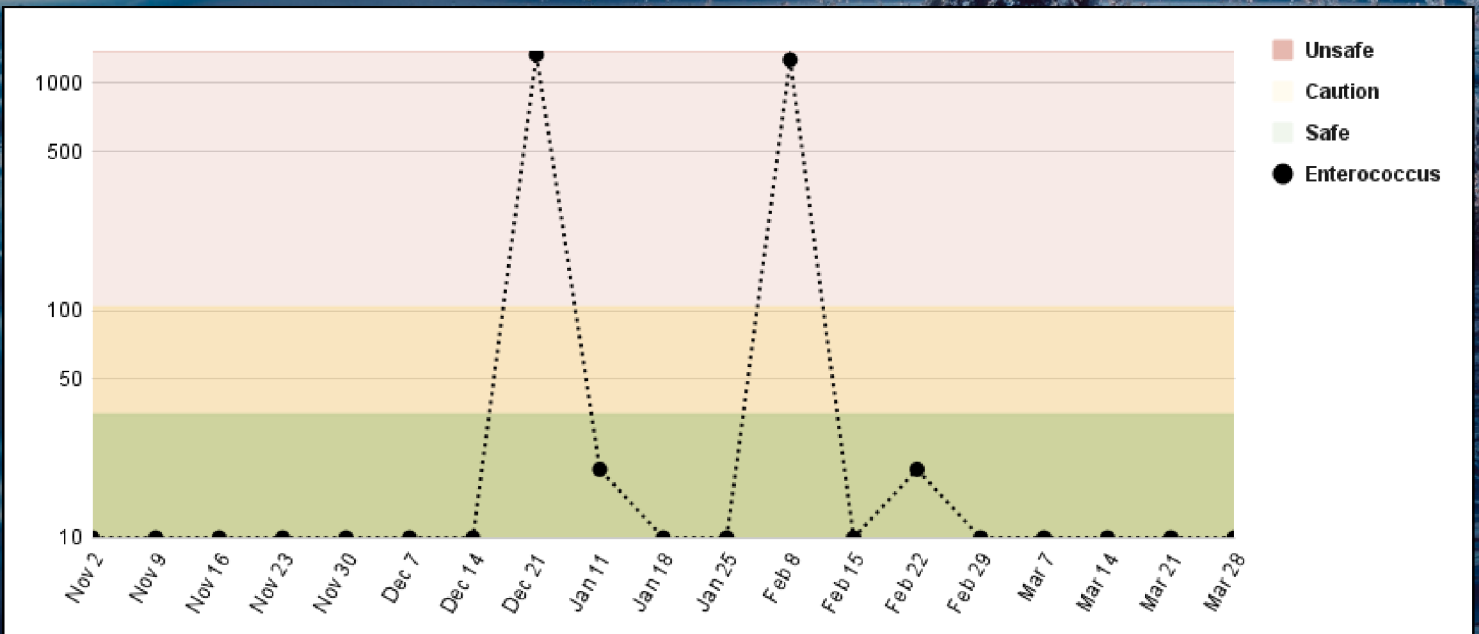


RESULTS BY SITE: OXNARD BEACH OUTRIGGER WAY



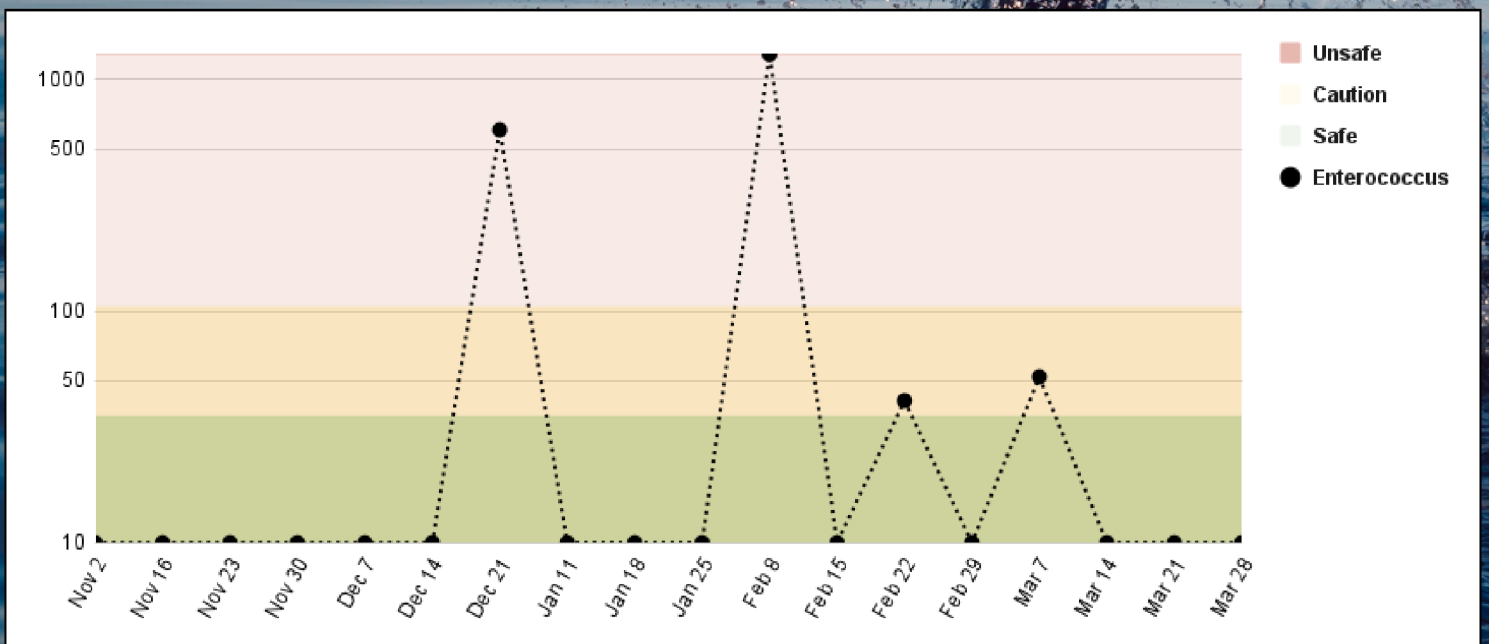
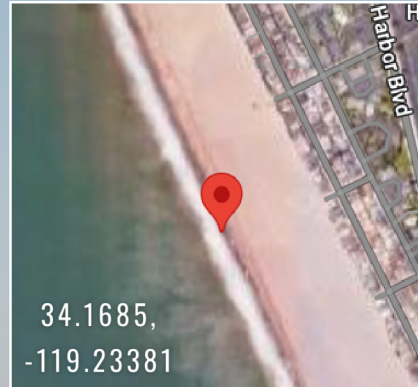
11%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

STREET FLOODING AFTER HEAVY RAINS OCCURS HERE AND PUMPS ARE RUN FROM THE CITY OF OXNARD ACROSS THE BEACH TO DRAIN INTO SAND PITS. DRAINAGE PROBLEMS CLOSE TO THE OCEAN HAVE BEEN A CAUSE FOR CONCERN FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. BWTF BEGAN TESTING HERE IN 2021 FOR THE FIRST TIME.

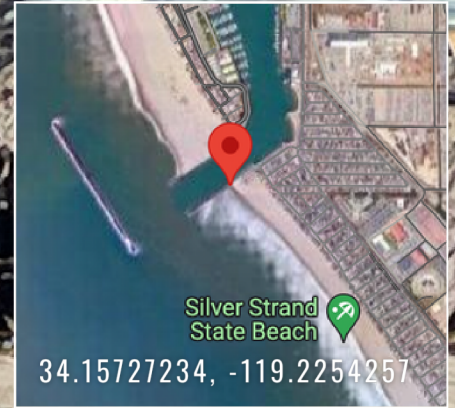


RESULTS BY SITE: HOLLYWOOD BEACH LA CRESCENTA ST

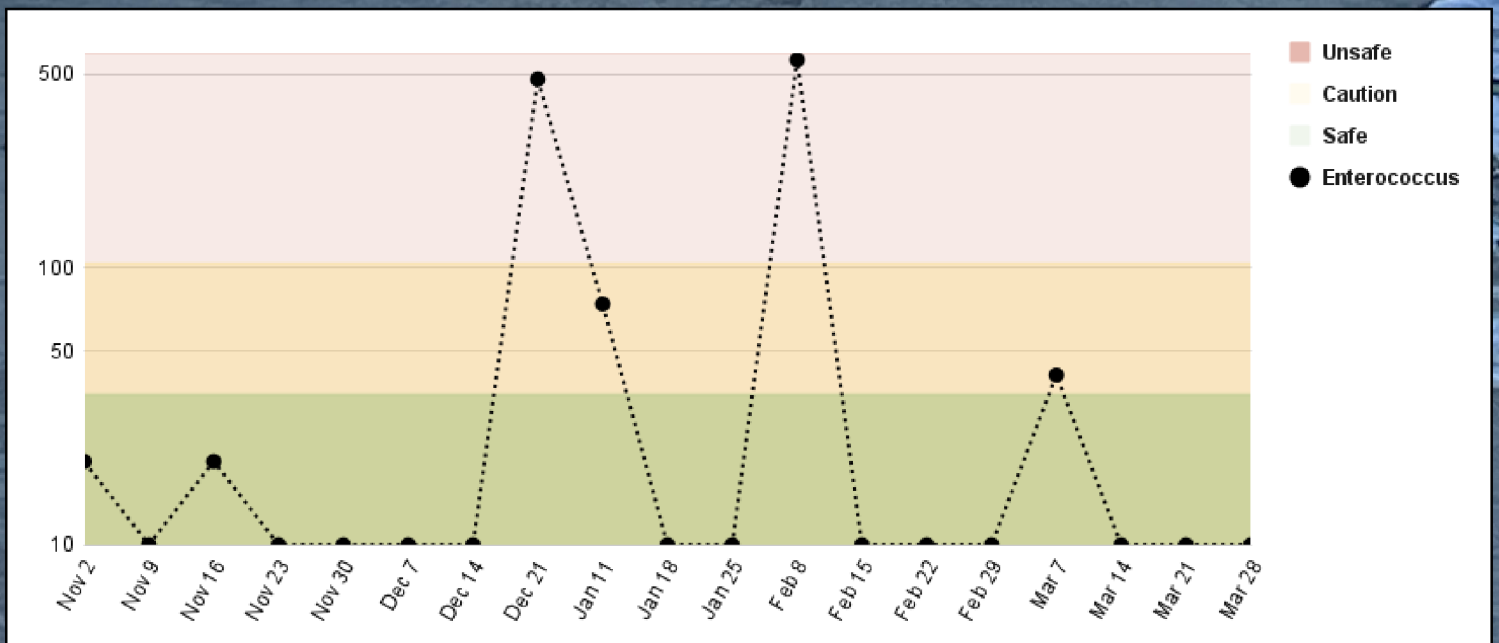
11%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



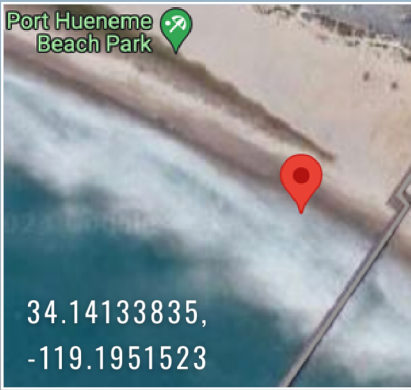
RESULTS BY SITE: SILVER STRAND SAN NICHOLAS AVE



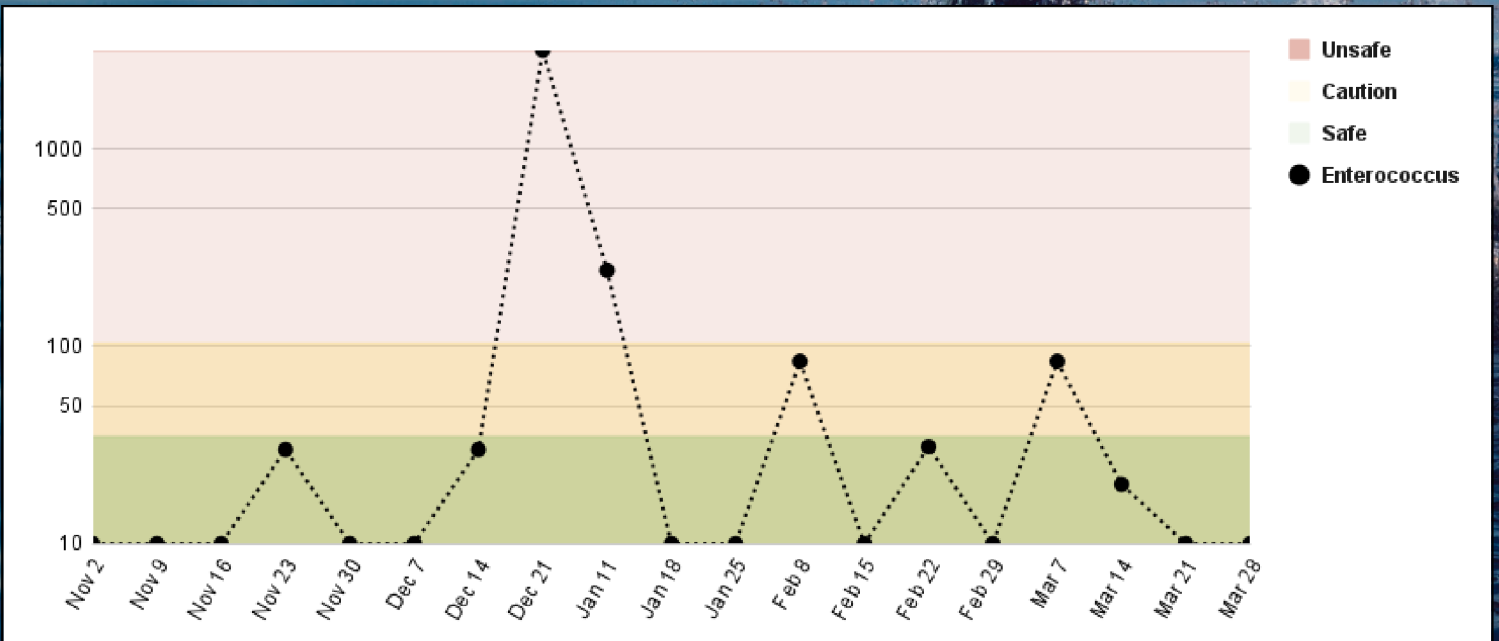
11%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS



RESULTS BY SITE: PORT HUENEME BEACH PARK



11%
OF SAMPLES
EXCEEDED HEALTH
STANDARDS

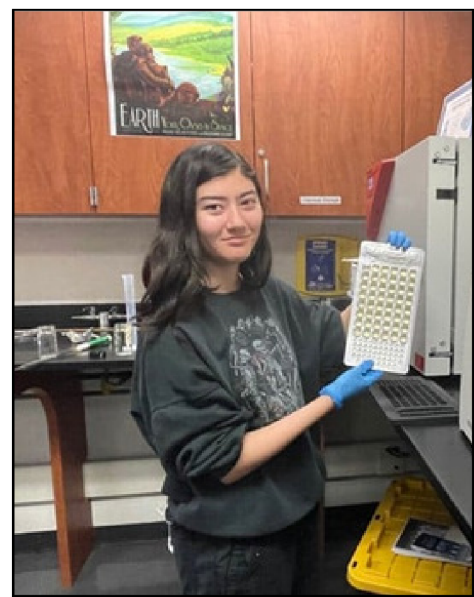


VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The results of this report are brought to you through community efforts of the Surfrider Foundation Ventura County Chapter Blue Water Task Force leaders and CORE volunteers:

Thank you to Mike, Mark, Harvard, Lauren, Regina, Dave, Michelle, Jen, Fritz, Adolfo, Steve, Scott, Chuck.

This program is made possible through the generous funding in memory of Chuck Vinson, the Chatlen Family Memorial Fund, Yardi Systems, Inc. and Patagonia, USA.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE 2024-2025 TESTING SEASON:

NOW RECRUITING FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON!
CONTACT JOY DOWNING RILEY
BWTF@VENTURA.SURFRIDER.ORG
MORE GENERAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE BWTF.SURFRIDER.ORG

