

San Mateo County Harbor District
Water Quality and Public Safety Committee Meeting Report

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2015

Time: Start 7:00 pm, End 8:30 pm

Commissioner Co-Chairs: Nicole David, Tom Mattusch,
Water Quality Focus

The meeting was attended by:

Jay Davis, SFEI

Keith Mangold

Tim Costello

Pat McGowan

Rick Andrews

Brittani Bohlke, San Mateo County Resources Conservation District (RCD)

Saskia, San Mateo County Resources Conservation District (RCD)

Ed Larenas, Surfrider Foundation

Gregory Smith, SMC Department of Environmental Health

Capistrano Beach PowerPoint presentation:

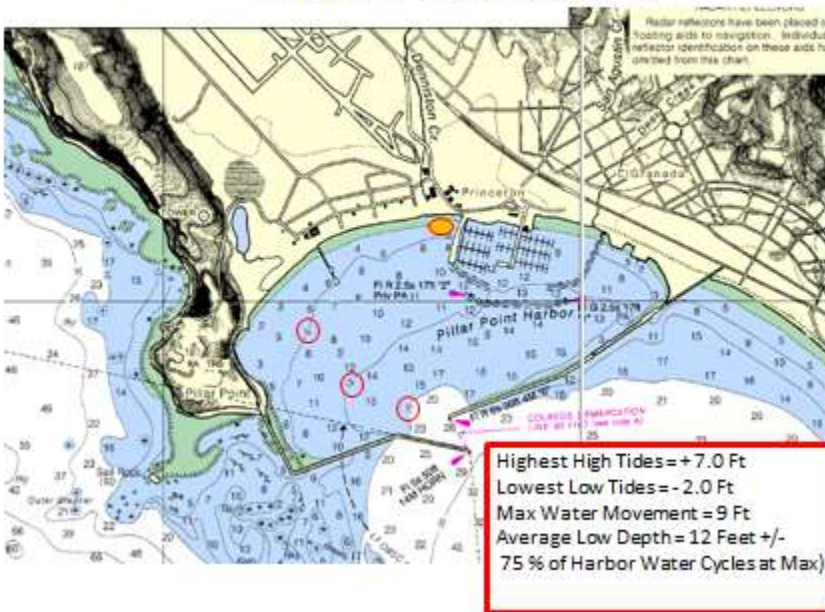
Capistrano Beach



Capistrano Beach Perspective



Pillar Point Harbor



Capistrano Beach Water Sources



Capistrano Beach Water Sources

This presentation shows the documented sources of pollution contributing to "Capistrano Beach", arguably, one of the most consistently polluted beaches in California. The "hotspot" is at the beach within the harbor, fed by two storm sewer outlets and a creek.

The major source of water in the harbor is tidal. Incoming tides are sources of clean water that dilute and flush pollutants derived from the creeks and storm drains.

Denniston Creek is typically the highest volume wet weather source of pollution with wilderness and agricultural lands contributing most of the volume. It drains approximately 4 square miles including the Clipper Ridge development.

The San Agustin Creek and storm drain provides the next highest volume of polluted water. It drains from high in the hills south of the Denniston Headwaters and runs into the El Granada storm sewer system.

The third source of polluted water is the Capistrano storm sewer system, which delivers a disproportionately level of pollution considering its very contained (approximately 2 blocks) drainage area.



Pollution Sources



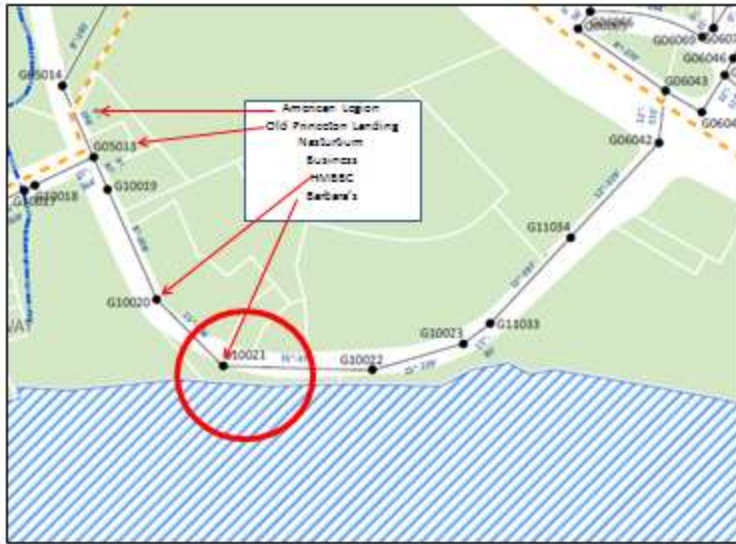
Capistrano Beach @ Low Tide



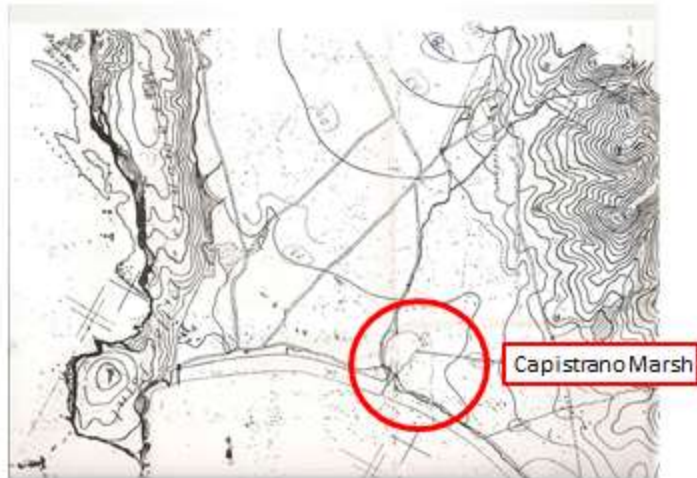
Storm Drains Feeding Capistrano Outfall (SMC Map)



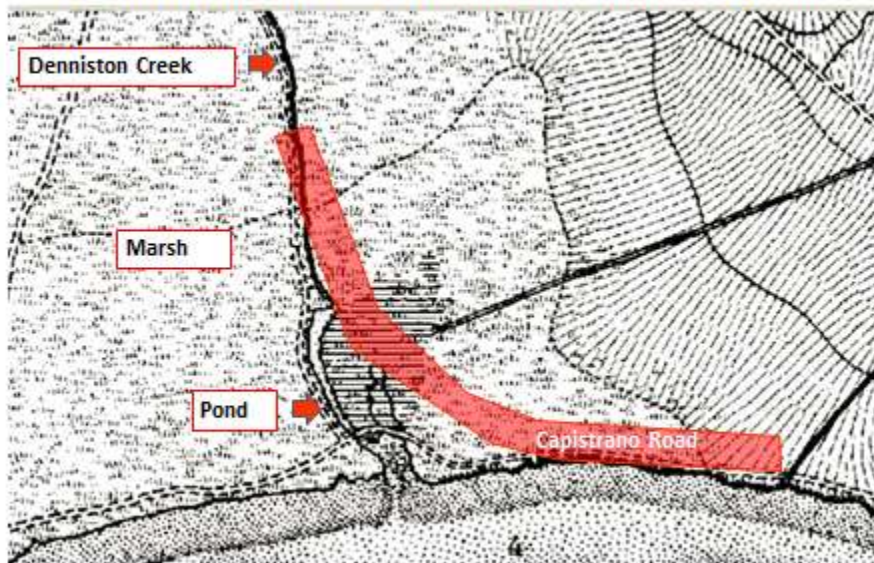
Sanitary Sewer Map



1861 Survey (Marsh)



The current site of the outfall was a marsh in 1863 coastal





Some residents of the area believe that part of the problem is the lack of records showing buildings, sewer lines and storm drains for the structures that preceded the buildings that exist today.

Barbara's Fish Trap



Runoff from washing the mats, sidewalk and disposal area flows directly into the beach outfall. The bacterial counts from these areas might raise the total counts from the outfall. However, the chemicals used might reduce the bacterial count. Barbara's was cited by San Mateo County Environmental Health as early as 1984, to no effect, apparently.

Discussion following the presentation:

- Discussed the best options for investigating potential bacteria loads entering the Harbor.

- Discussed controllable sources of bacteria leading to impairment. Discussed BMPs for trash control to reduce raccoon population.
- Discussed anchor outs in outer Harbor.
- Discussed coordination of samples between County of San Mateo and Surfrider Foundation.

The August meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 7 pm at the RCD in Half Moon Bay. We will focus on water quality but also include public safety issues.