San Diego County

San Diego County grades were excellent, with the exception of the southern beaches impacted by the Tijuana River

San Diego's border beaches were impacted this past year by massive amounts of untreated sewage

There are five agencies within San Diego County that provided monitoring information for Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card:

- The City of Oceanside
- The City of San Diego
- Encina Wastewater Authority
- San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
- The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH)

Samples were collected throughout the year along open coastal and bay beaches, some sites are near flowing storm drains, creeks or rivers. Drainage outlet samples were generally collected at the wave wash (where runoff and ocean water mix) or 25 yards away from a flowing storm drain, creek or river.

Beach water quality this past year during summer dry weather in San Diego County was excellent. The Tijuana Slough at the Tijuana River Mouth (C grade) was the only location to earn a grade lower than an A or B, and took the No. 10 spot on this year's Beach Bummer list (Figure 1-4). The County's water quality grades during winter dry weather were also excellent with 98% of monitoring locations receiving A or B grades (only 68% of locations were sampled consistently throughout the winter). Figure 2-1 illustrates San Diego County's water quality grades for this past year compared to the previous five-year average. The percentage of wet weather A and B grades (87%) is up 10% from our last report and bested the county's five-year average of by nearly 20%.

A complete list of grades for San Diego County's beach monitoring locations can be found in Appendix C on page 79.
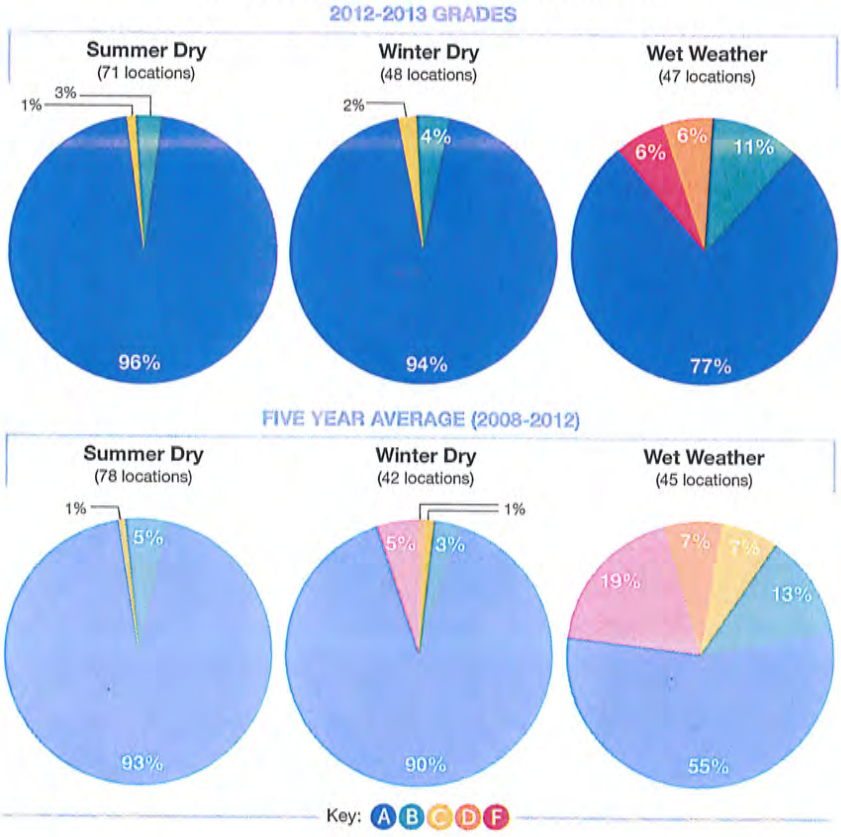
FIGURE 2-1: SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEACHES