



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closure for Summerland Beach

Beginning immediately, Summerland Beach is closed to the public to prevent adverse health effects and protect the public's health. The decision to close the beach at this time was due to the volume of oil on the beach and sand, the nature of the oil (more liquid and mixed in the water and across sand as opposed to solid tar balls which are more easily avoidable) and intermittent strong petroleum odors at a level that may cause health effects.

Summerland Beach will continue to be monitored by various County agencies including Public Health, Parks, and Air Pollution Control District. Monitoring of air, land and ocean conditions will continue. The cause of the oily substance at Summerland Beach is not yet clear. This is **not** believed to be directly related to the Refugio 901 incident. Further testing and analysis will continue over the next few weeks.

At this time, it is not clear when the beach will re-open to visitors. The beach closure may continue throughout the weekend. The public is reminded that avoiding exposure to crude oil compounds is strongly recommended.

Summerland Beach is located adjacent to the Santa Barbara County Lookout Park. It extends eastward towards Loon Point.



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