



October 7, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sand - NOT Shoreline or Water - to Reopen Friday Morning in Laguna Beach

Laguna Beach, CA – We are pleased to announce that all sand within the City of Laguna Beach will reopen at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, October 8, 2021. **The shoreline and ocean water remain CLOSED at this time.** Adjacent City beach parks will also be open at this time for public use.

Approaching the shoreline (the point where the water meets the wet sand) or entering the ocean water for any activity (swimming, surfing, SUP, wading, skimboarding, kayaking, etc.) is not permitted at due to recent oil spill. The public is asked to please refrain from any ocean activity.

Oil spill residue may be present. Please use caution and avoid contact with any trace of oil. If you see oil-contamination or oil tar balls on beaches, do not attempt to pick them up or touch them. Please call the Marine Safety non-emergency line at (949) 497-0310.

“I am very pleased that our City team has come up with a plan to open the sand so that our residents and visitors can walk and relax on our beautiful beaches,” said Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen. “The Coast Guard advises that we must keep the water closed for health reasons until the water quality can be fully analyzed. I ask everyone to cooperate with this restriction and stay out of the water. We will be working with state and federal officials to open the water as soon as it is safe.”

The city will continue to monitor the beaches for the next few weeks and will begin doing bi-weekly ocean water quality testing. If there is any sign of oil appearing on beaches, the City Manager has authority to again close those affected beaches intermittently for public safety and oil cleanup efforts. Please pay close attention to all signs posted at beaches for permitted activities and health and safety advisories.

Future reopening of the ocean water will be done in consultation with the US Coast Guard, the Orange County Healthcare Agency and other partners, with the priority being the health and safety of the community. Click <https://bit.ly/3Dp24ZI> for the City of Laguna Beach Oil Resource Webpage for ways you can sign up for volunteer clean-up, donate to critical organizations and find out the latest information on the oil spill recovery.

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