

SANTA MONICA BAY



SURF CITY, U.S.A.

Surfing is a celebrated part of the Southern California beach scene, along with swimming, volleyball, biking, sailing and sunbathing. One of the Bay's prime surfing spots is Surfrider Beach. As many as 2 million people visit Bay beaches on a summer day.



STORM DRAINS — HOW POLLUTION TRAVELS FROM YOUR STREET TO THE OCEAN

When litter, oil, lawn clippings, animal droppings and other wastes are dumped into gutters, they do not just disappear. They travel through storm drains into the Bay, polluting the beach and threatening ocean life. Swimmers should avoid flowing storm drains, especially after rainstorms.

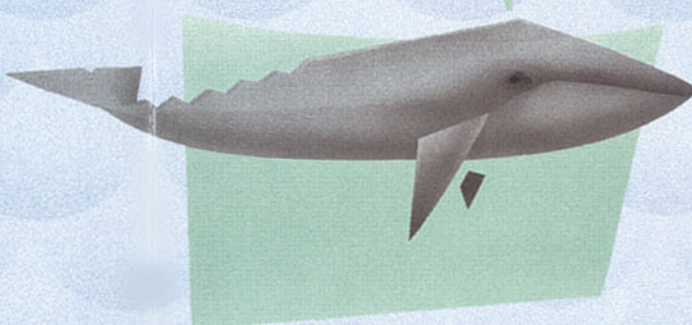
BACK FROM THE BRINK? THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN

California least terns make simple nests — just a scrape in the sand will do. With their fragile nests easily destroyed by beachgoers, stray pets, and shoreline development, the least tern was nearing extinction. Today, fenced nesting areas at Venice Beach and Playa del Rey are helping this endangered species recover.



OCEAN LIFE — THE GRAY WHALE

Once nearly hunted to extinction, today 20,000 gray whales swim through the Bay on their 12,000 mile round-trip from the Bering Sea to Baja California. View them between December and May at Point Vicente.

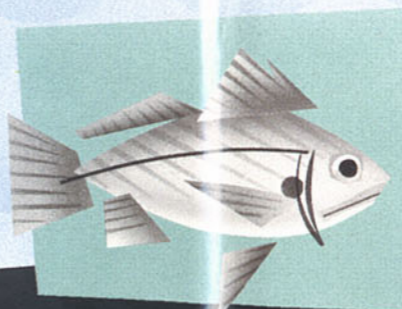


MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES

Each day, two municipal sewage treatment plants and an oil refinery discharge nearly 800 million gallons of treated wastewater into the Bay (enough to fill the Los Angeles Coliseum almost twice). Three electric power generating stations use over a billion gallons of seawater daily to cool condensers.

TOXIC RESIDUES AND THE WHITE CROAKER

Past discharges of the chemicals DDT and PCBs remain on the ocean floor off the Palos Verdes Peninsula. High levels of these substances in white croaker (a bottom-feeding fish) have forced the closure of the local white croaker fishery. Warning signs caution sport fishermen not to eat this fish.



METROPOLIS BY THE BAY

With nearly 9 million people, Los Angeles County is one of the world's most populous coastal areas. If the County were a country, its economic output would be the world's 17th largest, just behind Mexico and ahead of Switzerland and Saudi Arabia.

BOEHM

Map not to scale

