

CCA #113 Point Vicente & Abalone Cove Critical Coastal Area

DESCRIPTION

This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed consists of a thin strip of land on the edge of the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County, bounded on the inland side by Palos Verdes Drive. This CCA extends from Point Vicente in the east to Portuguese Point in the west. Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area (No-Take) and Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area are off the coast adjacent to the shoreline of this CCA.

The eastern portion of the CCA includes the Point Vicente Lighthouse and associated facilities. There is fishing access in the adjacent Pelican Cove, and trail access to the sheltered Terranea Beach. Inland of the cove, land uses include residential areas, hotels, resorts, and a golf course.

Abalone Cove is on the west side of the CCA at Portuguese Point. Trail access and parking is provided at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. This section of the CCA is bounded by tall, steep inland bluffs. The areas below the bluffs are mainly residential, and also include a horse riding club. Steeper areas unsuitable for development have been protected by several parks and preserves: Barkentine Canyon Preserve/Three Sisters Reserve, Del Cerro Park, Del Cerro Reserve, Filiorum Reserve, and Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve contains the largest intact area of native coastal sage scrub vegetation on the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula, although the majority of this watershed does not drain directly into this CCA.

Waterbodies in this CCA that are listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list are **Point Vicente Beach** (impaired by indicator bacteria); **Abalone Cove Beach** (impaired by PCBs, and DDT); **Long Point Beach** (impaired by PCBs, and DDT); and **Santa Monica Bay Offshore/Nearshore** (impaired by PCBs, DDT, arsenic, mercury, and trash). Potential sources of these pollutants, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Unspecified Nonpoint Source** (unknown nonpoint source); and **Source Unknown**.

CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Point Vicente and Abalone Cove [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 2014 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) list (Santa Monica Bay Offshore/Nearshore, Point Vicente Beach, Long Point Beach, and Abalone Cove Beach) is adjacent to a [California Marine Protected Area](#) (Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area, and Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area).



Long Point, Between Point Vicente and Abalone Cove

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For more photos, see the [California Coastal Records Project](#).

ADDRESSING POLLUTANTS

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to make a [list of impaired waters](#) that are not attaining water quality standards, and to develop a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) or similar approach to account for all sources of the pollutants that caused the water to be listed as impaired. TMDLs include allocations to both point and nonpoint sources (NPS) of the listed pollutants. The current (2016) 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies includes pollutants, potential pollutant sources, and year a TMDL was approved or is expected.

To address NPS pollutants, see [California's Nonpoint Source Management Measures](#) for guidance on selecting appropriate Management Measures, which consist of a suite of plans, practices, technologies, operating methods, or other measures that may be used to control NPS pollution.

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