

# VENTURA COUNTY OCEAN WATER QUALITY REPORT

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2024-  
2025

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**SURFRIDER**  
FOUNDATION.  
VENTURA COUNTY





# **BLUE WATER TASK FORCE**

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) provides critical local ocean water quality information to the public by reporting unsafe water conditions that could cause waterborne illness during winter wet weather months.

BWTF fills in the testing gap when Ventura County Environmental Health Division reduces their sampling and reporting from 40 to 19 sites at Ventura County beaches.

BWTF reports high bacteria levels per the California Environmental Protection Agency for the presence of enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacteria. Our labs process samples

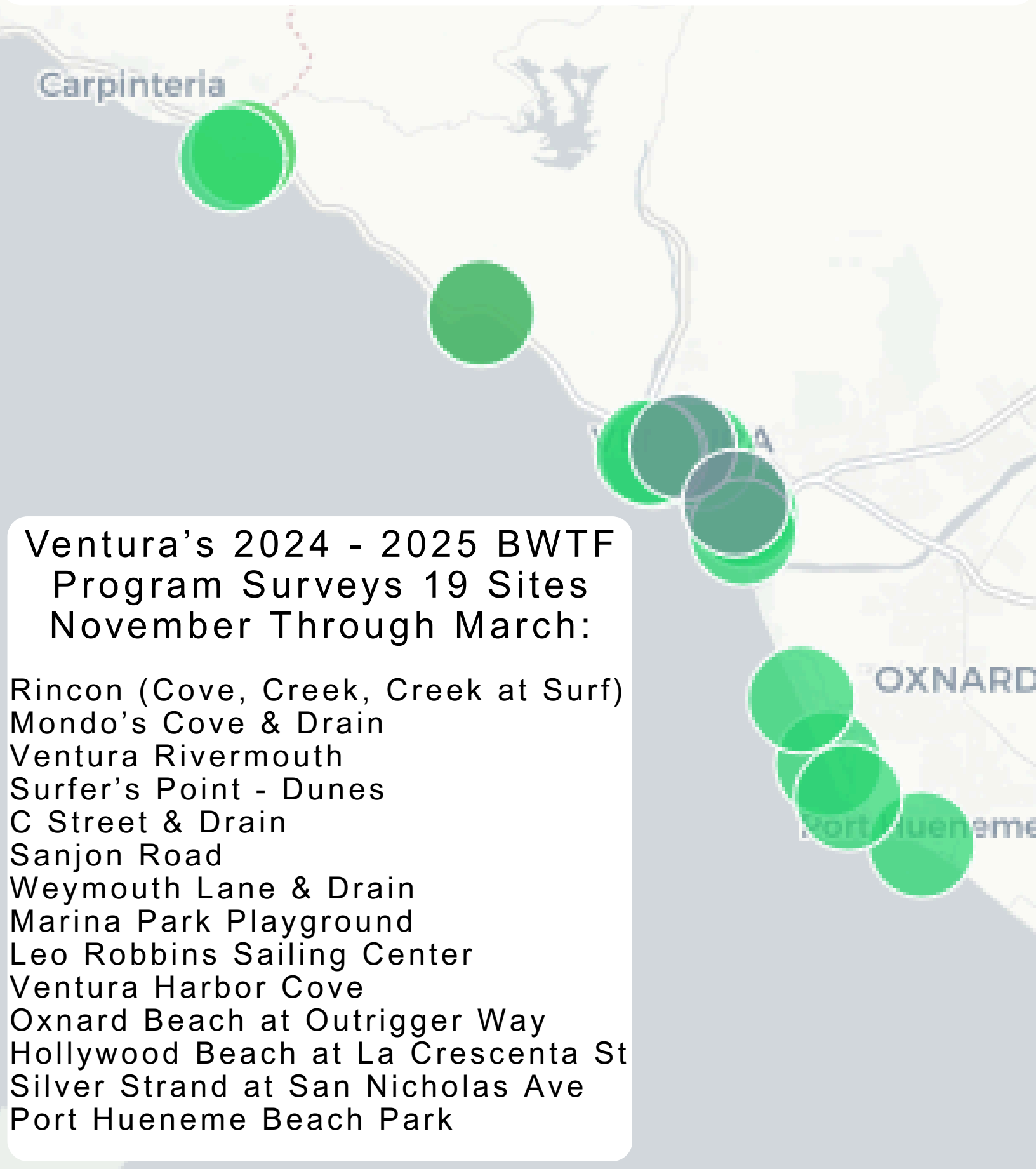
from ocean and harbor sites, as well as freshwater locations, for point and nonpoint source pollution that discharges onto beaches (e.g. stormwater outlets, rivers, creeks).

Our Chapter BWTF uses this water quality monitoring program to raise awareness of local pollution problems and to bring together communities to implement solutions.

BWTF recommends avoiding river and ocean water for 72 hours after a rain event to avoid contact with stormwater pollution that could contain pathogens that cause waterborne illness.



# WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES



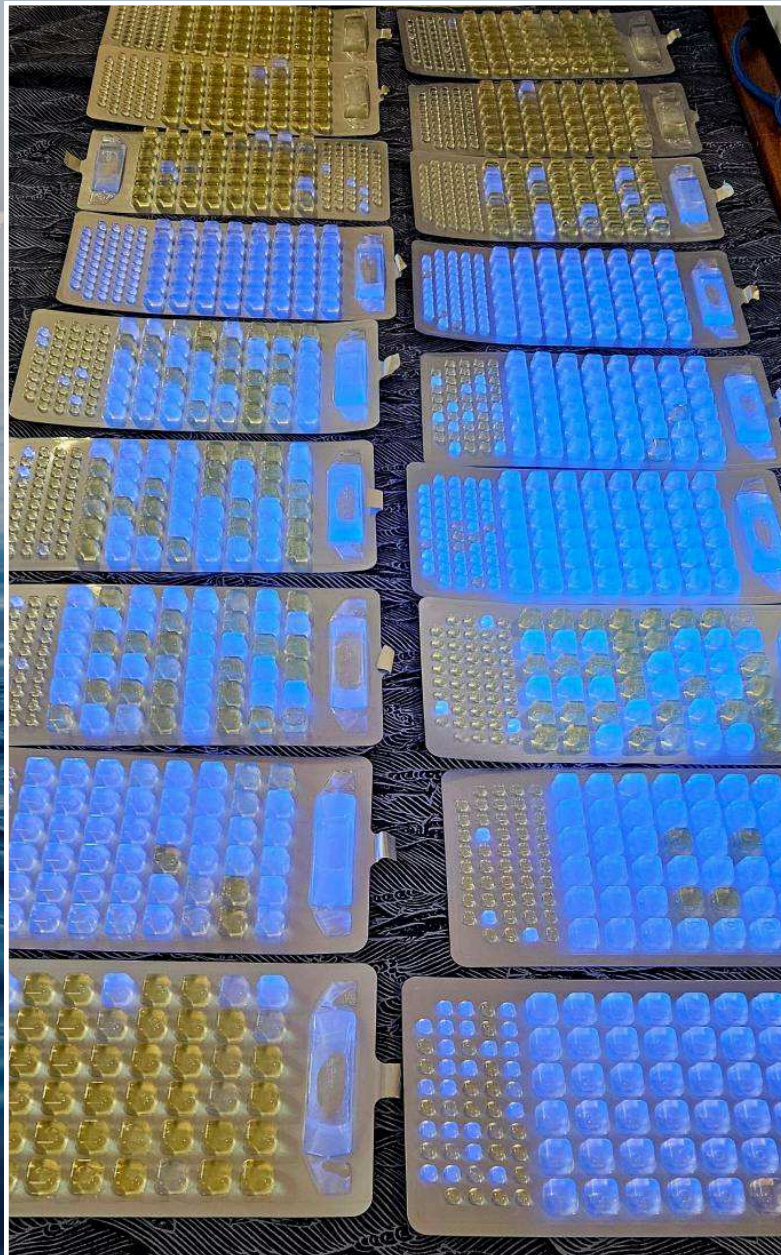
## Ventura's 2024 - 2025 BWTF Program Surveys 19 Sites November Through March:

Rincon (Cove, Creek, Creek at Surf)  
Mondo's Cove & Drain  
Ventura Rivermouth  
Surfer's Point - Dunes  
C Street & Drain  
Sanjon Road  
Weymouth Lane & Drain  
Marina Park Playground  
Leo Robbins Sailing Center  
Ventura Harbor Cove  
Oxnard Beach at Outrigger Way  
Hollywood Beach at La Crescenta St  
Silver Strand at San Nicholas Ave  
Port Hueneme Beach Park



# WHAT DO WE TEST FOR?

Enterococcus is a fecal indicator bacteria, which highlights the presence of both bacteria and viruses that can cause waterborne illness in humans through contact with ocean water.





# STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY STANDARDS

The California EPA standard for safe water entry is less than 104 colony forming units (cfu) per 100 mL of sampled water.

Fecal Indicator Bacteria (enterococcus)		
Low	34 cfu/100mL	Safe
Medium	35-103 cfu/100mL	Caution
High	104 cfu/100mL	Unsafe

Some instances of sites not being surveyed can be attributed to a lack of drain flow, or unsafe conditions (e.g. surf, tide, weather) for field samplers. Also, our labs lost power five times this season due to wildfire conditions, which reduces our reporting of seasonal trends.



# WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF WATERBORNE ILLNESS?

Enterococcus bacteria indicate fecal pollution (human or animal waste) and other pathogens that are found in fecal matter, which can make people sick with stomach flu, rashes, eye or ear infections, and other viral infections.

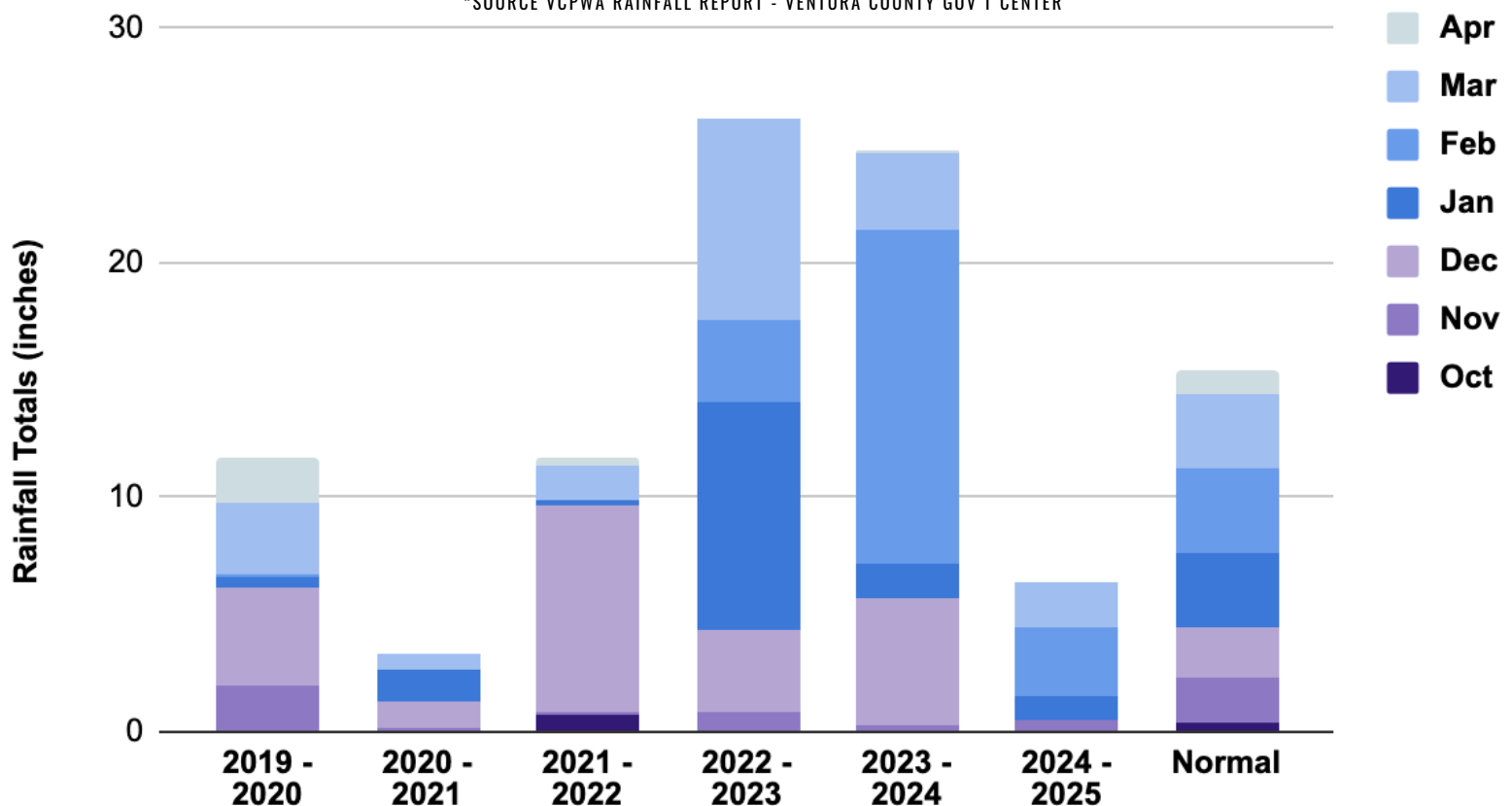




# SUMMARY RESULTS: RAINFALL INCREASES STORMWATER POLLUTION

## Rainfall Totals for City of Ventura from 2019 - 2025

\*SOURCE VCPWA RAINFALL REPORT - VENTURA COUNTY GOV'T CENTER

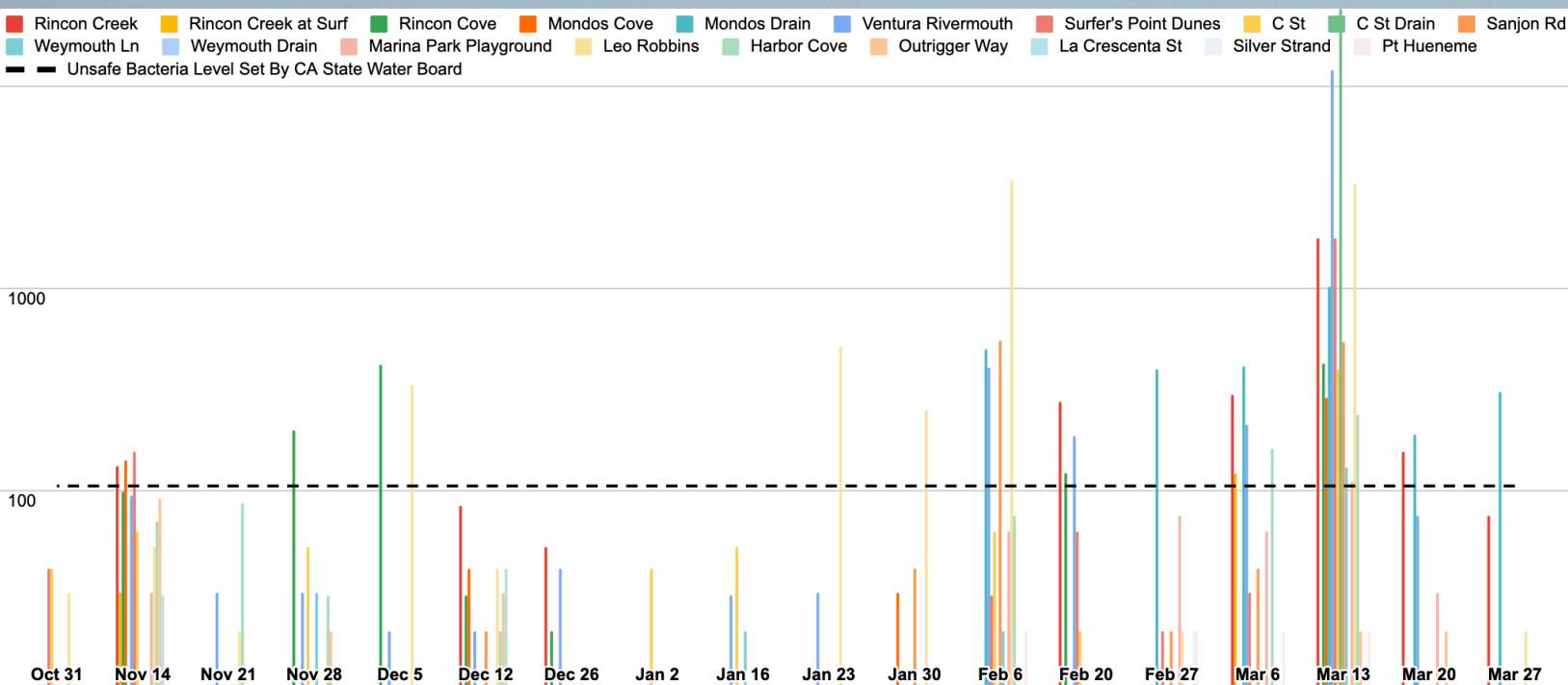


Ventura received 6.33 inches of rainfall November 2024 through March 2025, which is less than half of the average, 14.02 inches, likely due to our drier La Nina weather patterns.

Lower amounts of rainfall this season reduced stormwater and pollution runoff which resulted in improved water quality at nearly all water monitoring sites this year.



# SUMMARY RESULTS: STORMWATER = INCREASED PRESENCE OF FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA



Major rainfall events in early February and mid-March may correlate with a rise in unsafe levels of fecal indicator bacteria at monitoring sites.





## KEY FINDINGS

1. Improved water quality at nearly all Ventura County monitoring sites this wet weather season, likely due to well below average rainfall.

2. Ventura Rivermouth was the only survey site that did not show any improvement in water quality year-over-year.

3. Poorest water quality sites this season were Mondo's Drain, Rincon area (e.g. Creek, Cove), and Leo Robbins Sailing Center.

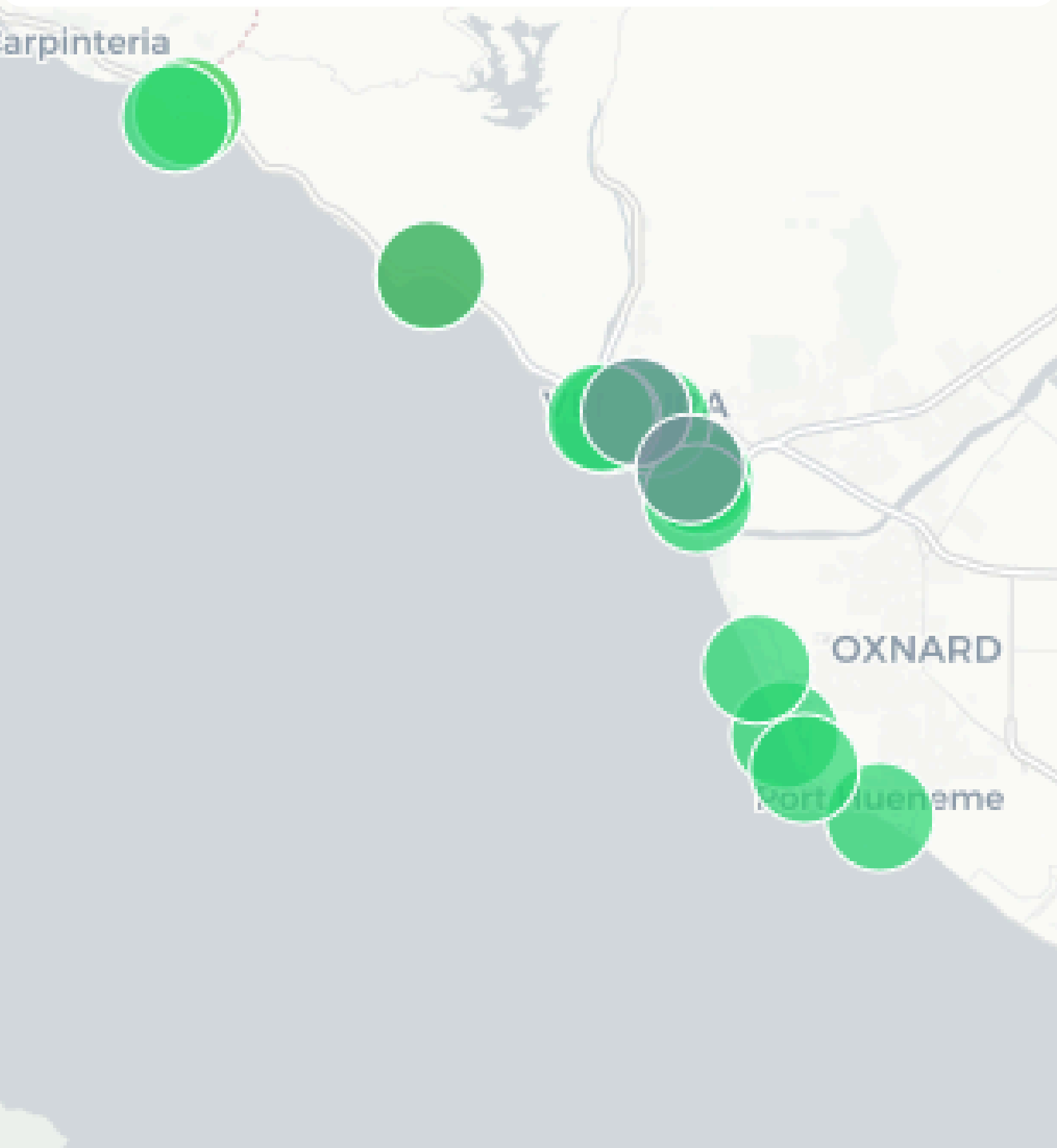
4. Oxnard area sites, for the second consecutive year, offered the best water quality in Ventura County.

Monitoring Site*	% High Bacteria	
	2024-25	2023-24
Rincon Creek	50	n/a
Rincon Cove	31	n/a
Mondos Cove	11	24
Mondos Drain	50	69
Ventura Rivermouth	22	22
Surfer's Point Dunes	11	20
C St	6	28
Sanjon Rd	11	28
Weymouth Ln	6	19
Marina Park Playground	6	41
Leo Robbins	29	35
Harbor Cove	11	29
Outrigger Way	0	11
La Crescenta St	0	11
Silver Strand	0	11
Pt Hueneme	0	11

\*C Street Drain, Weymouth Drain, and Rincon Creek at Surf excluded due to small base size of samples.



# APPENDIX



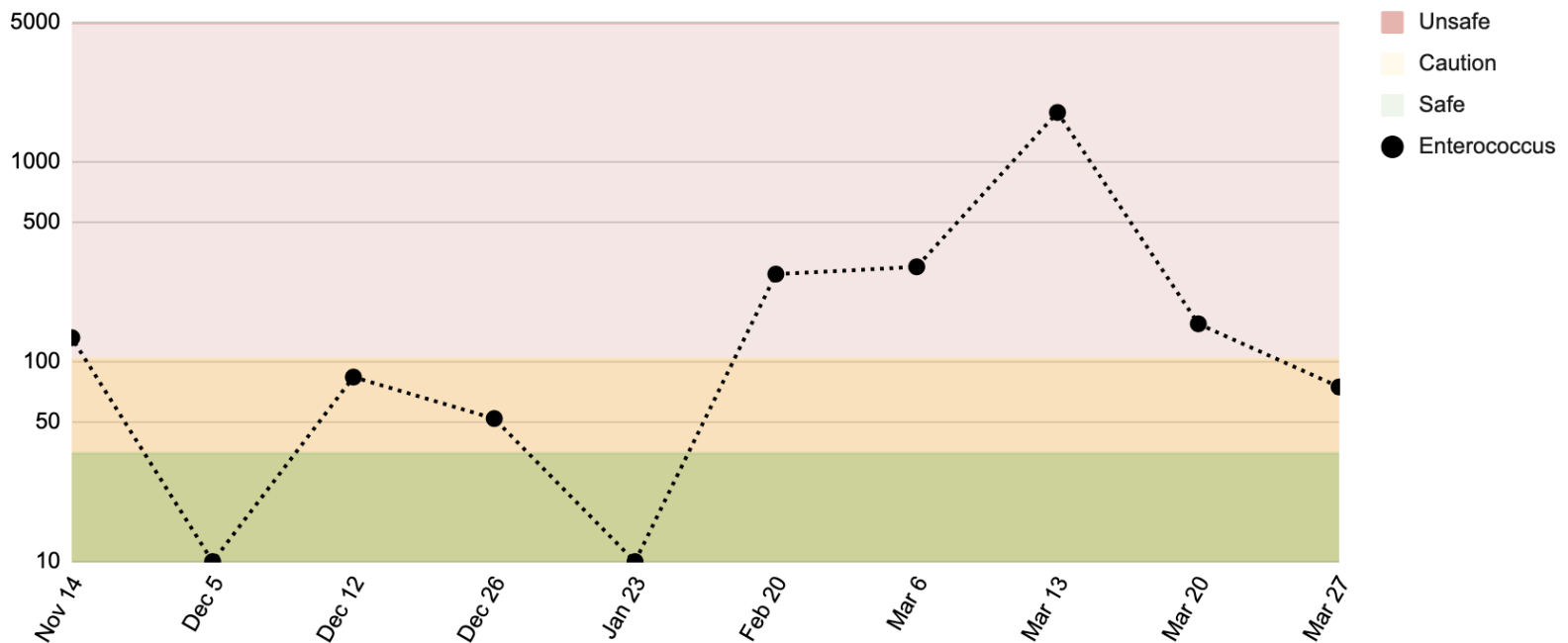
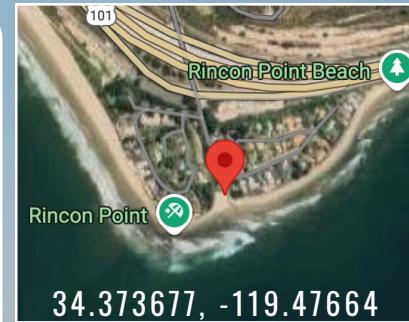


# RESULTS BY SITE: RINCON CREEK

**50%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

This is the first year the BWTF has monitored the Rincon Point beaches due to chronic bacteria problems reported by the County for the past two years. BWTF requested an investigation by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board in Santa Barbara April 2024 for further study which is still underway to date.

Rincon Creek was one of the most polluted sites; 5 weeks of surveys exceeded the California State Health standards for fecal indicator bacteria this wet weather season.

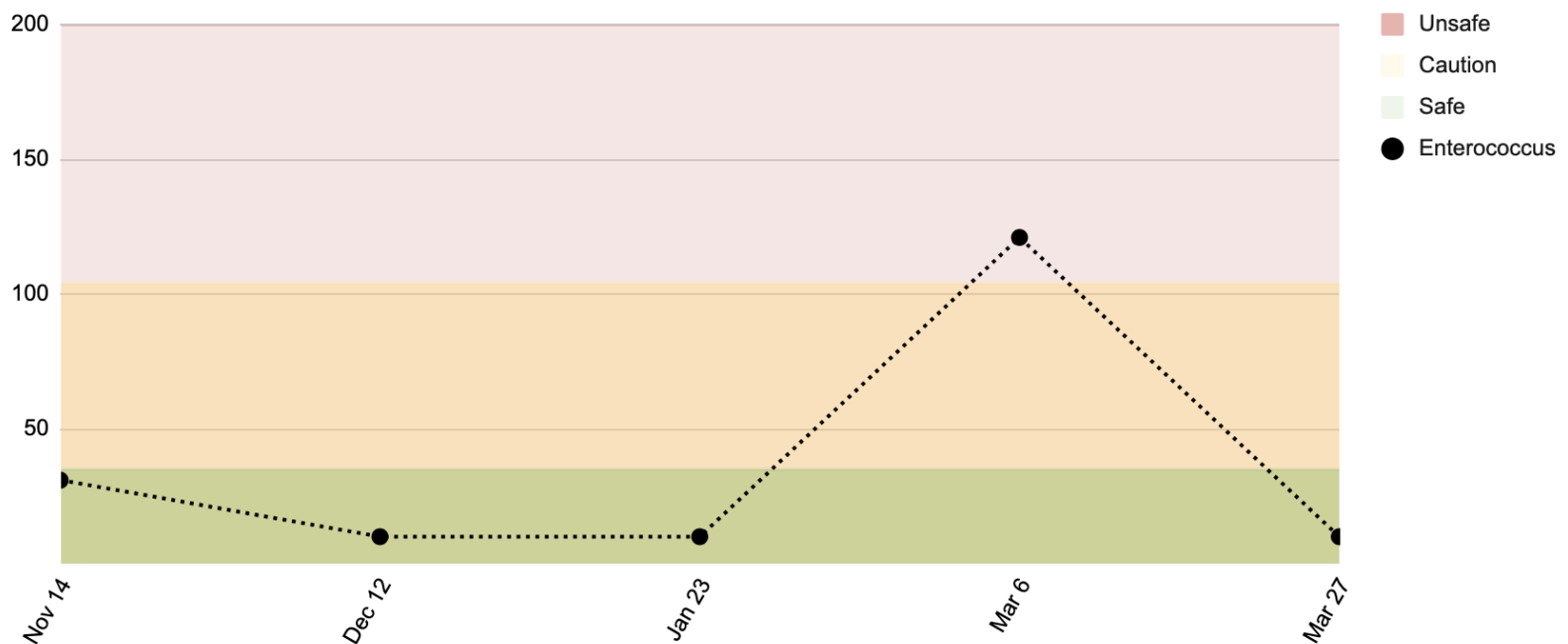
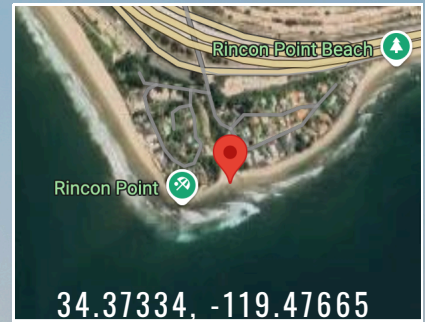




# RESULTS BY SITE: RINCON CREEK AT SURF

**20%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Unsafe survey conditions limited monitoring where Rincon Creek drains into the ocean. From our few samples captured, 20% of results demonstrated unsafe levels of fecal indicator bacteria.

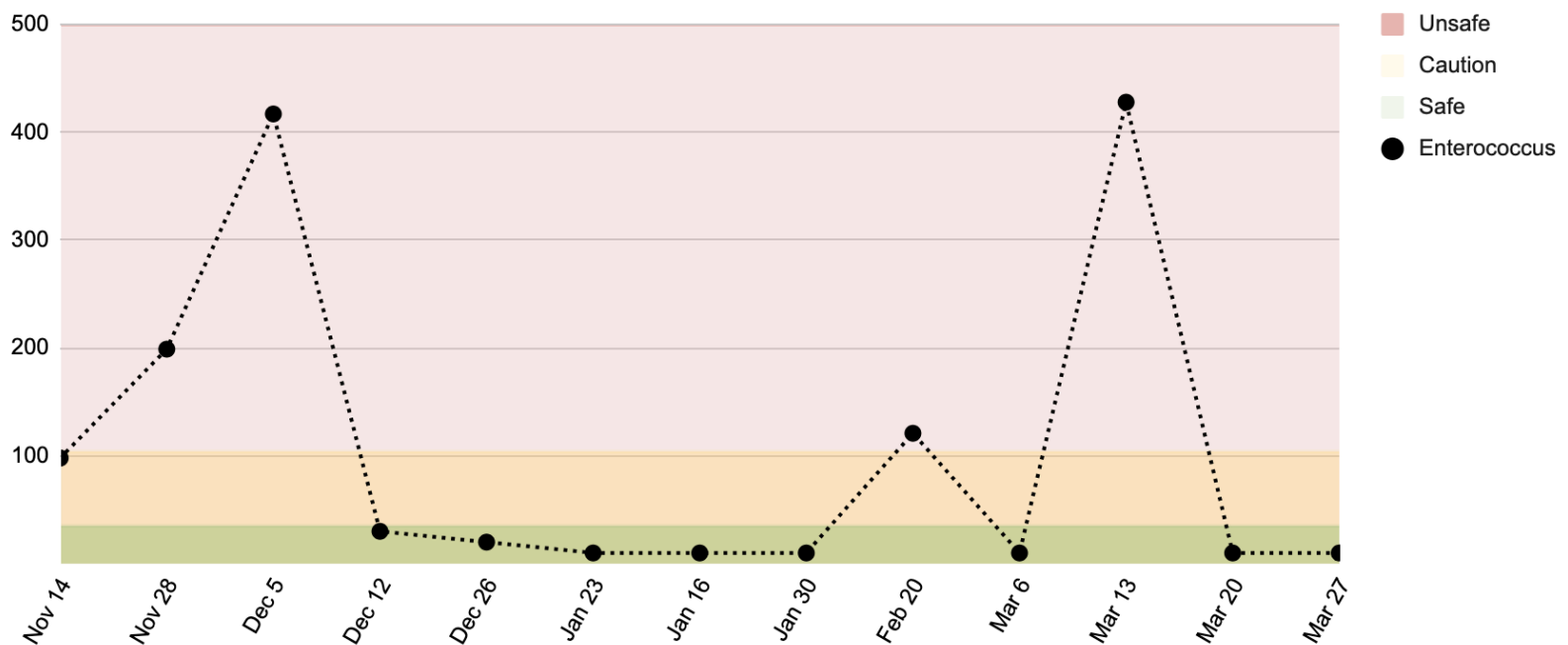
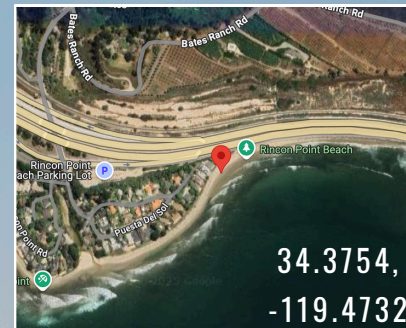




# RESULTS BY SITE: RINCON COVE

**31%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Closely following Rincon Creek, Rincon Cove had 4 weeks at unsafe levels, making it another top site for pollution concern.

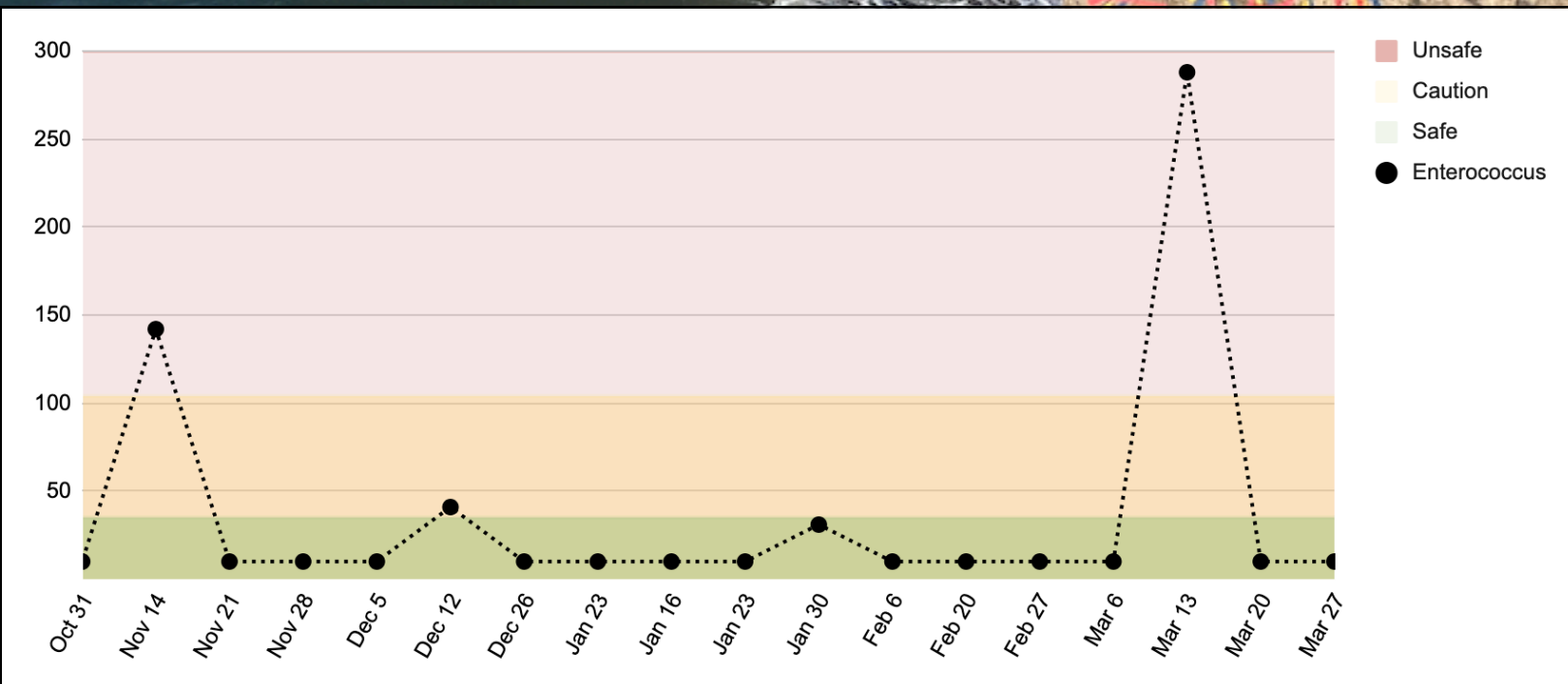
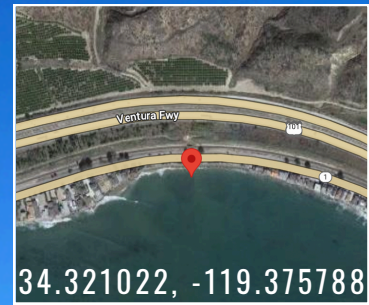




# RESULTS BY SITE: MONDO'S COVE

**11%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Mondo's Cove showed improved water quality with high bacteria levels falling from 4 weeks last season to only 2 weeks this season.

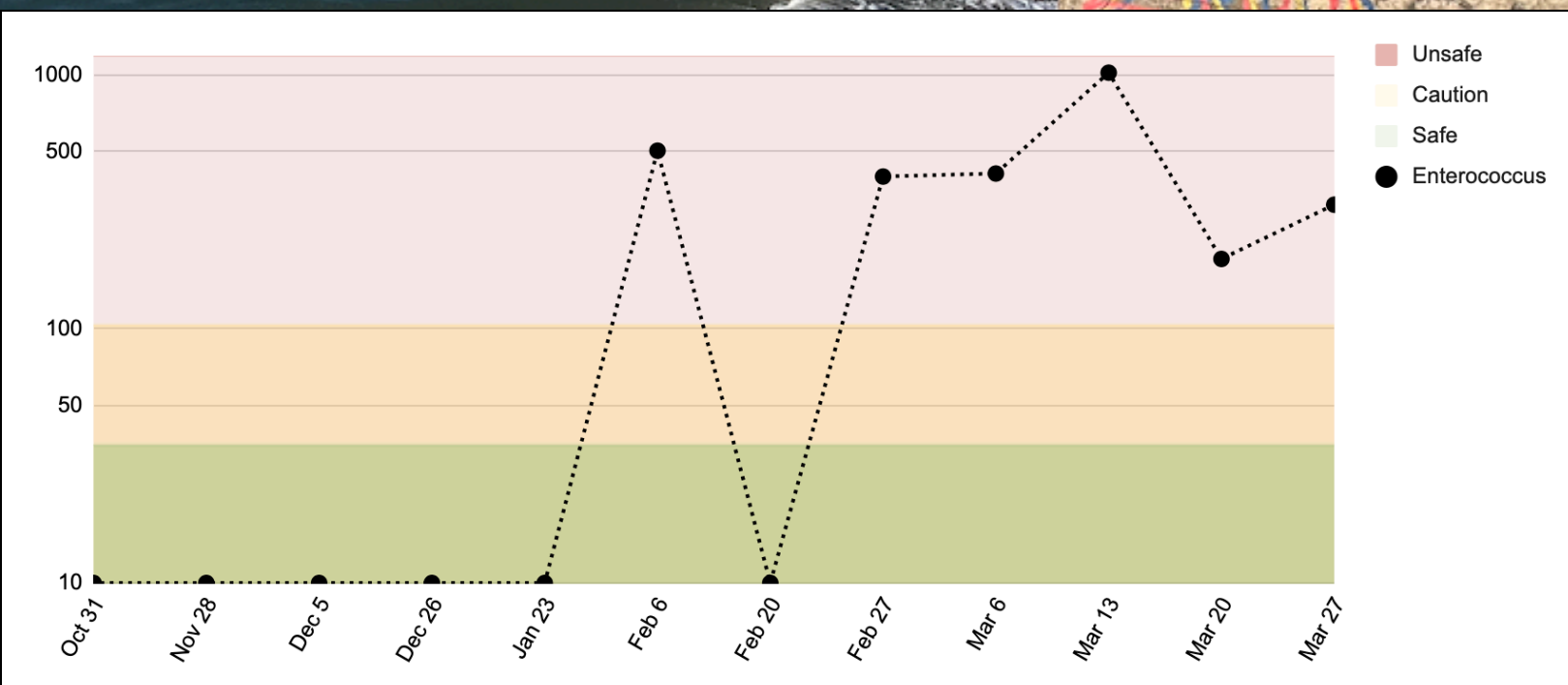
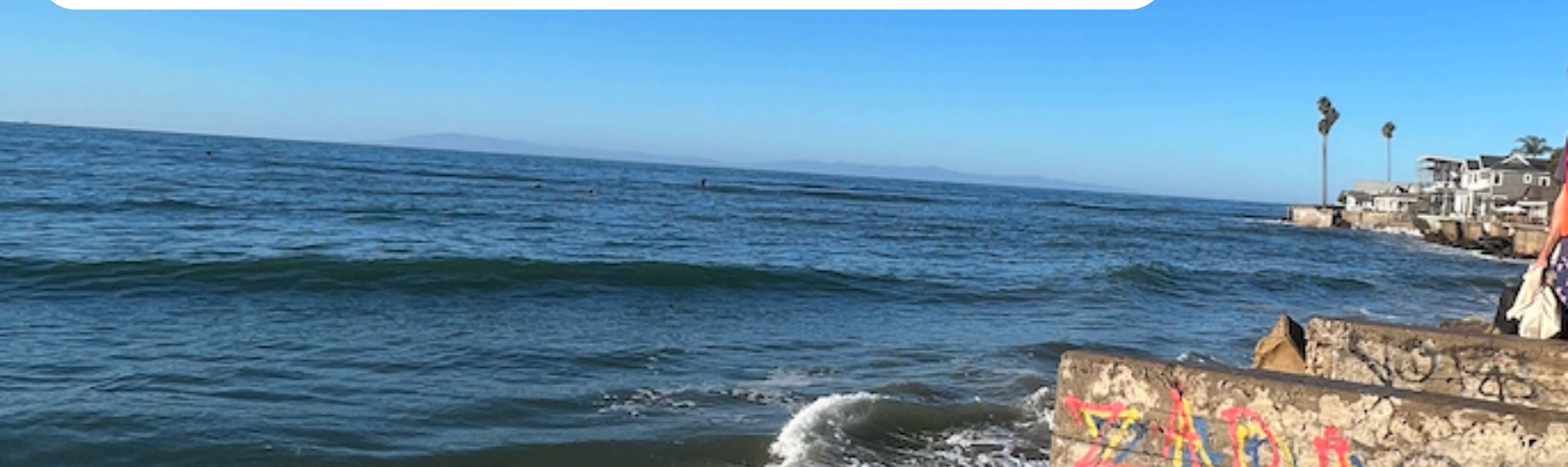
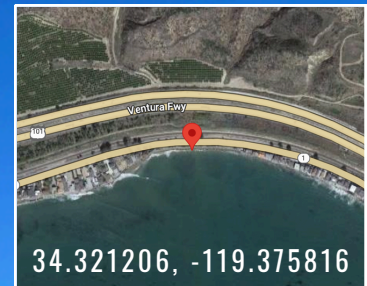




# RESULTS BY SITE: MONDO'S DRAIN

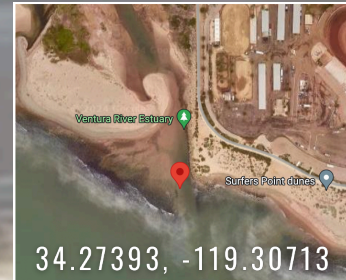
**50%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
**HIGH BACTERIA**  
LEVELS

Mondo's Storm Drain is still one of the most polluted drains BWTF tests with chronic bacteria counts occurring almost year round due to low levels of water streaming from hillside oil production that uses water propulsion to extract remaining oil in its lines.

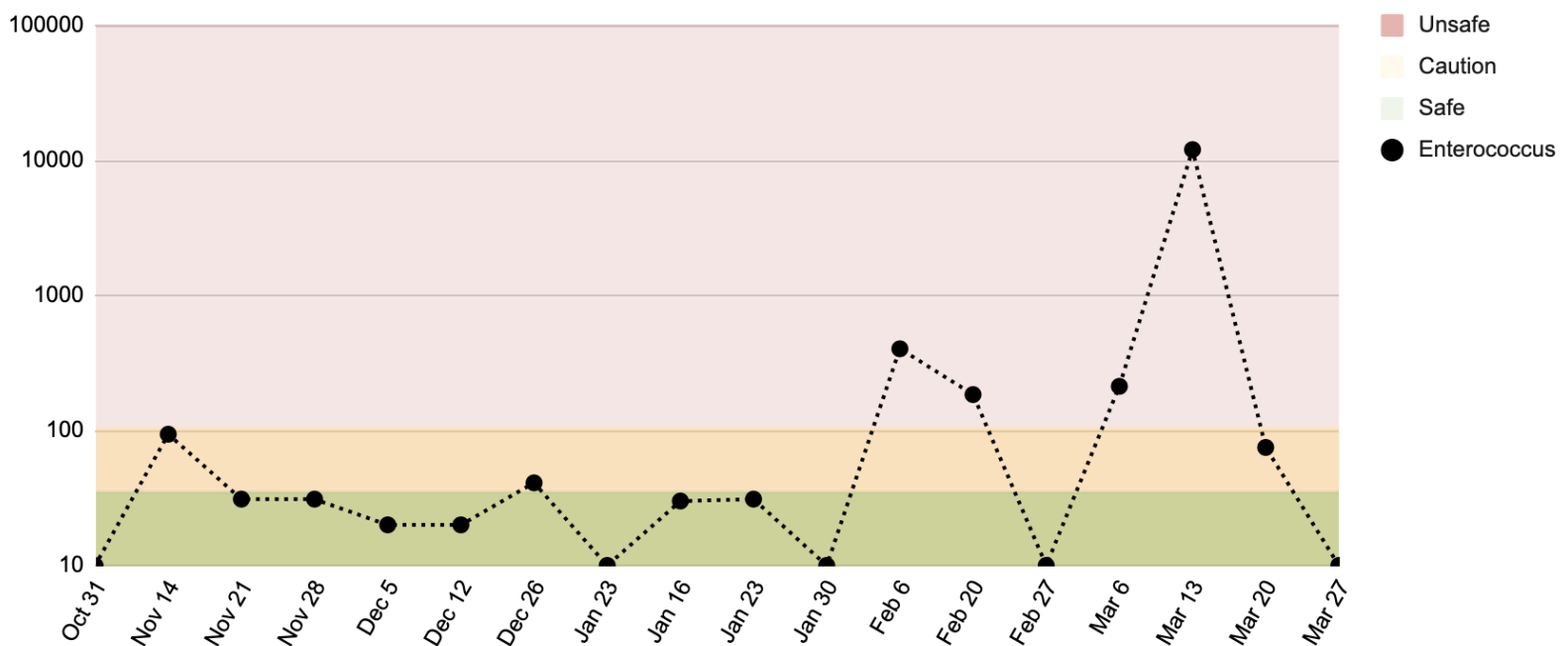


# RESULTS BY SITE: VENTURA RIVERMOUTH

**22%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS



Ventura Rivermouth was the only survey site that did not show an improvement in water quality this season, repeating last year's 4 weeks of surveys qualifying as unsafe.

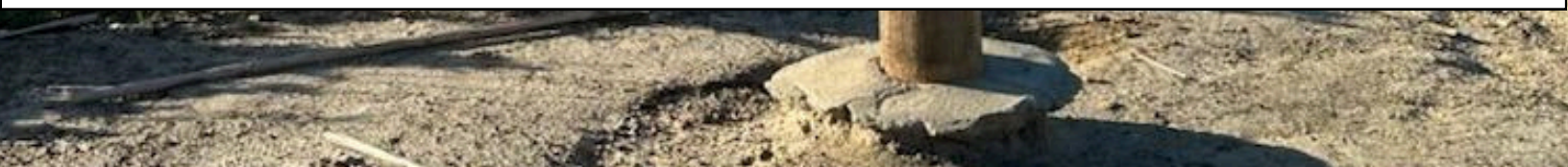
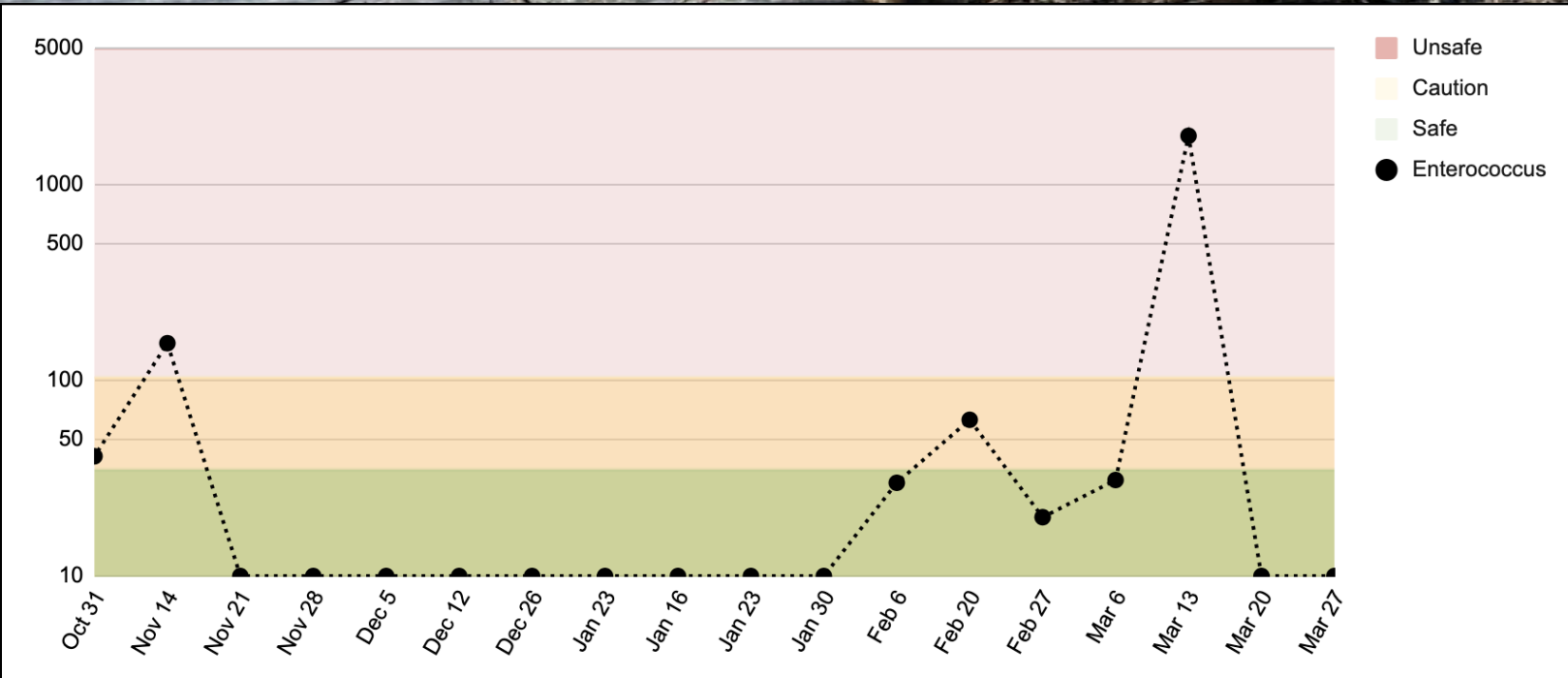
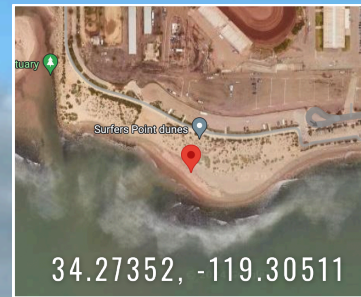




# RESULTS BY SITE: SURFER'S POINT AT DUNES

**11%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

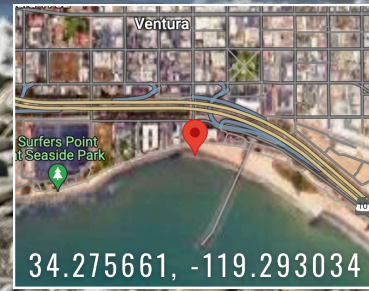
Surfer's Point at the dunes demonstrated improved in water quality this season, with high bacteria levels falling from 20% to 11% year-over-year.



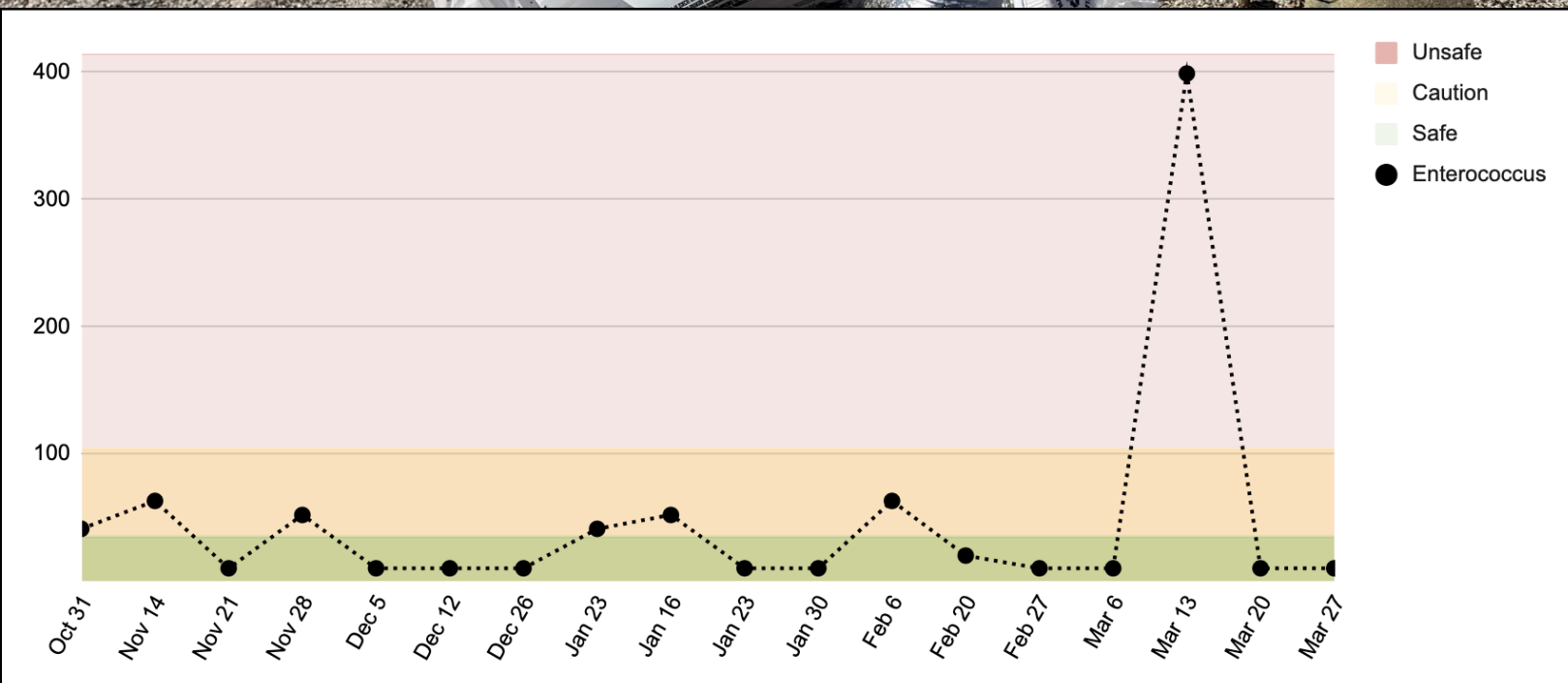
## RESULTS BY SITE:

# C STREET

**6%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS



C Street saw a major improvement in fecal indicator bacteria levels, as unsafe readings fell from 28% last season to just 6% in 2024-25.

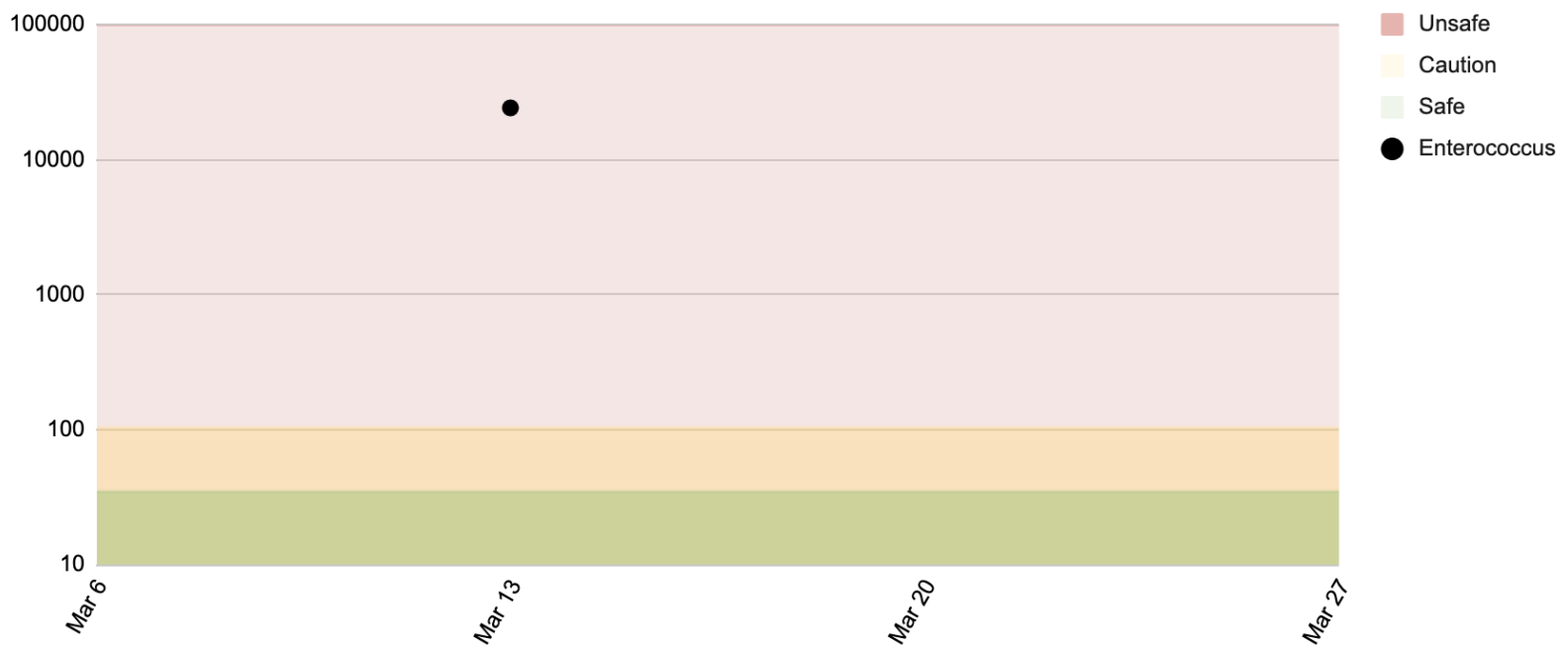
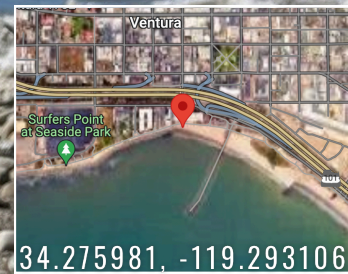




# RESULTS BY SITE: C STREET DRAIN

**100%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Low rainfall resulted in a lack of measurable flow at the C Street Drain for most survey attempts. The one sample taken near the mid-March rain event resulted in the presence of high levels of fecal indicator bacteria.

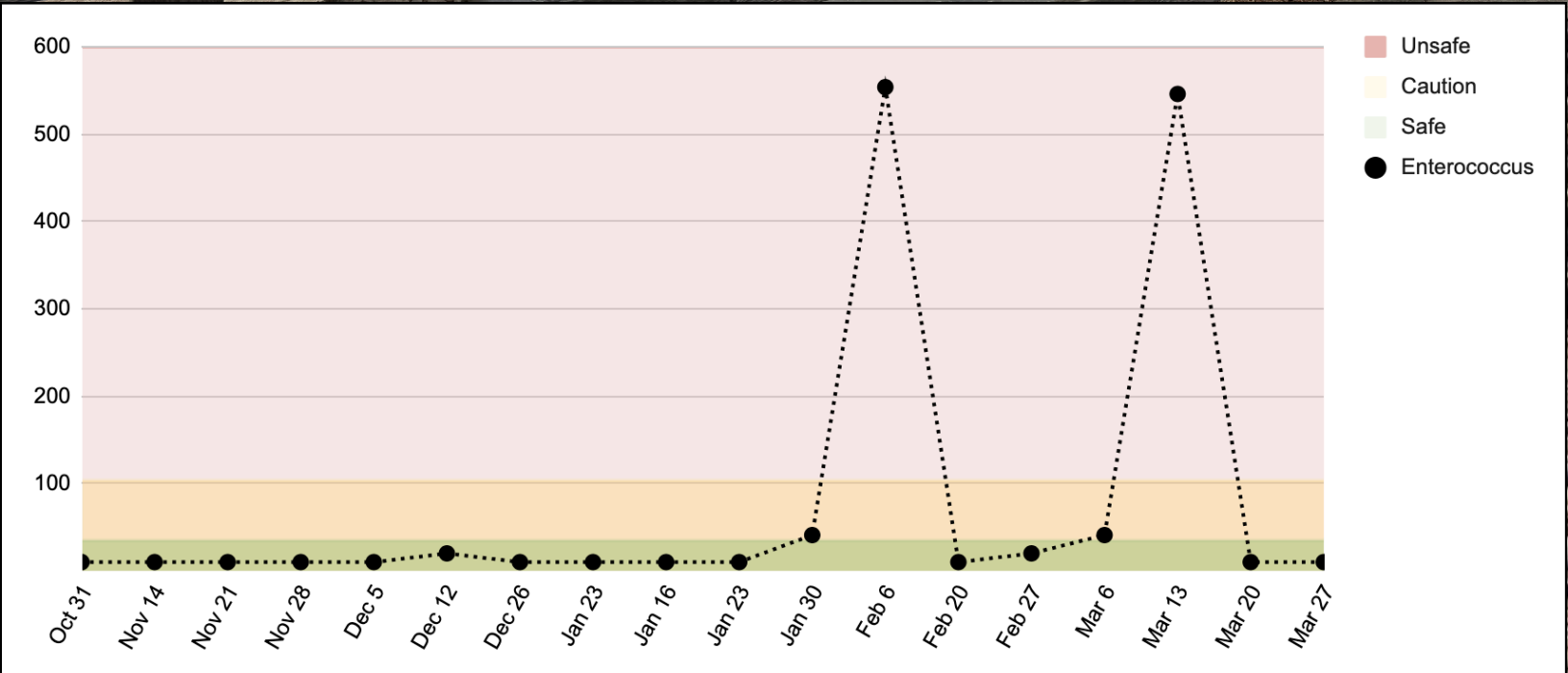
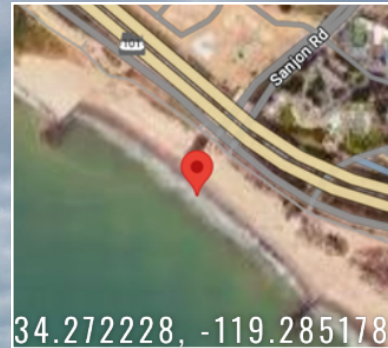




# RESULTS BY SITE: SANJON RD

**11%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

The Sanjon Road monitoring site indicated 2 weeks of unsafe levels compared to 5 weeks last year. Ventura County Environmental Division posted additional warning signs for unsafe water entry the last week of January, 2024.

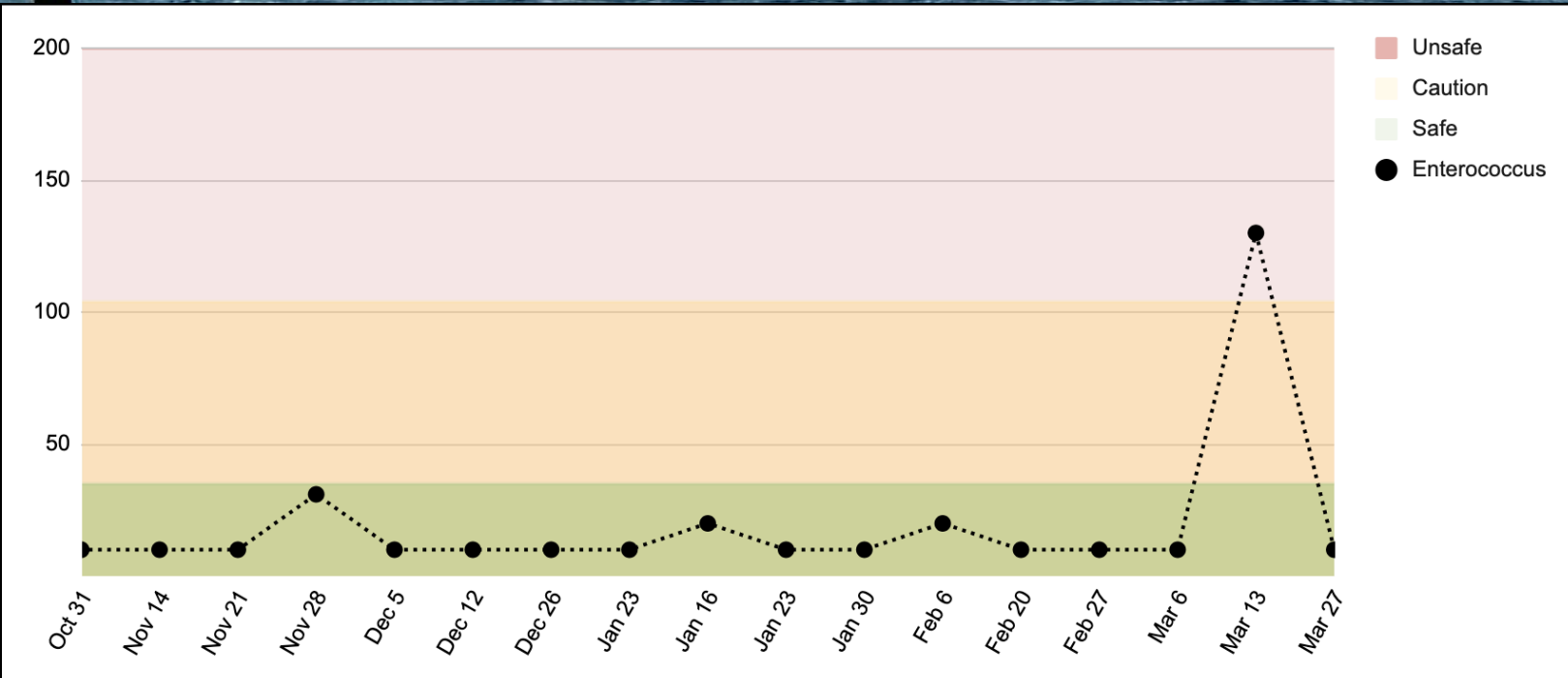
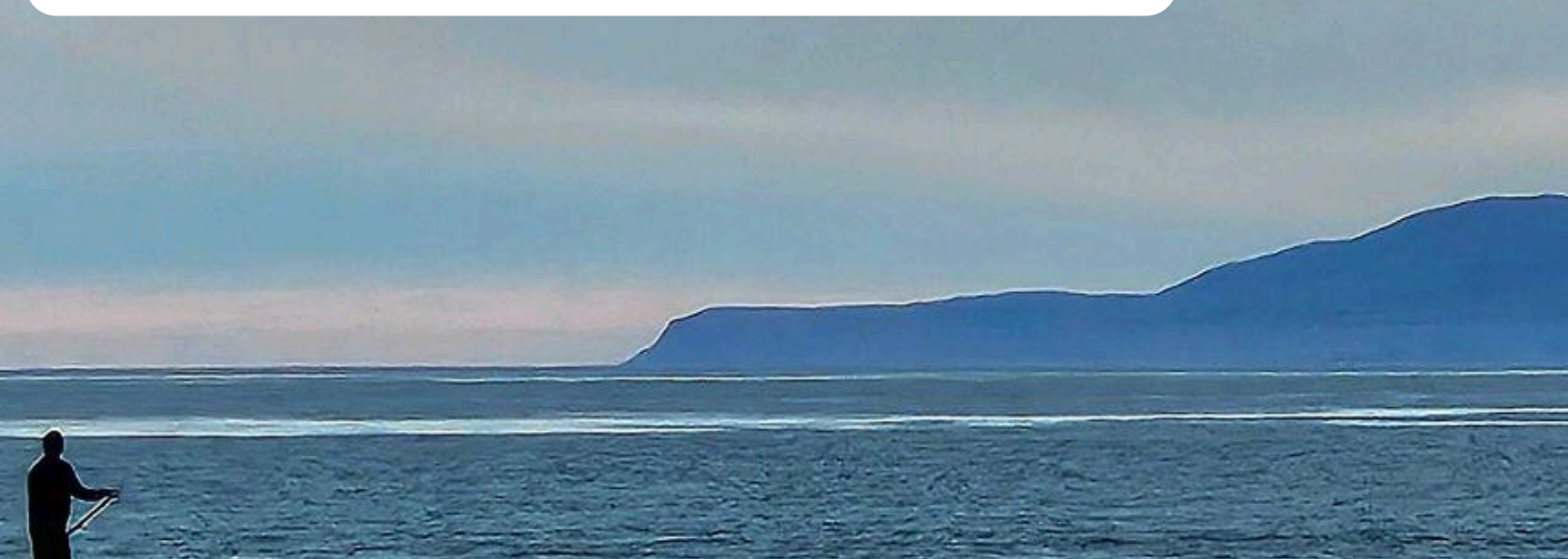
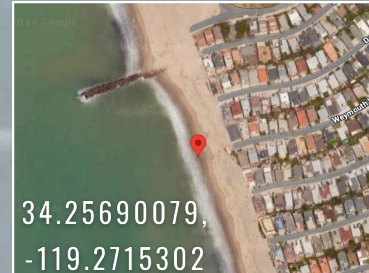




# RESULTS BY SITE: WEYMOUTH LANE

**6%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

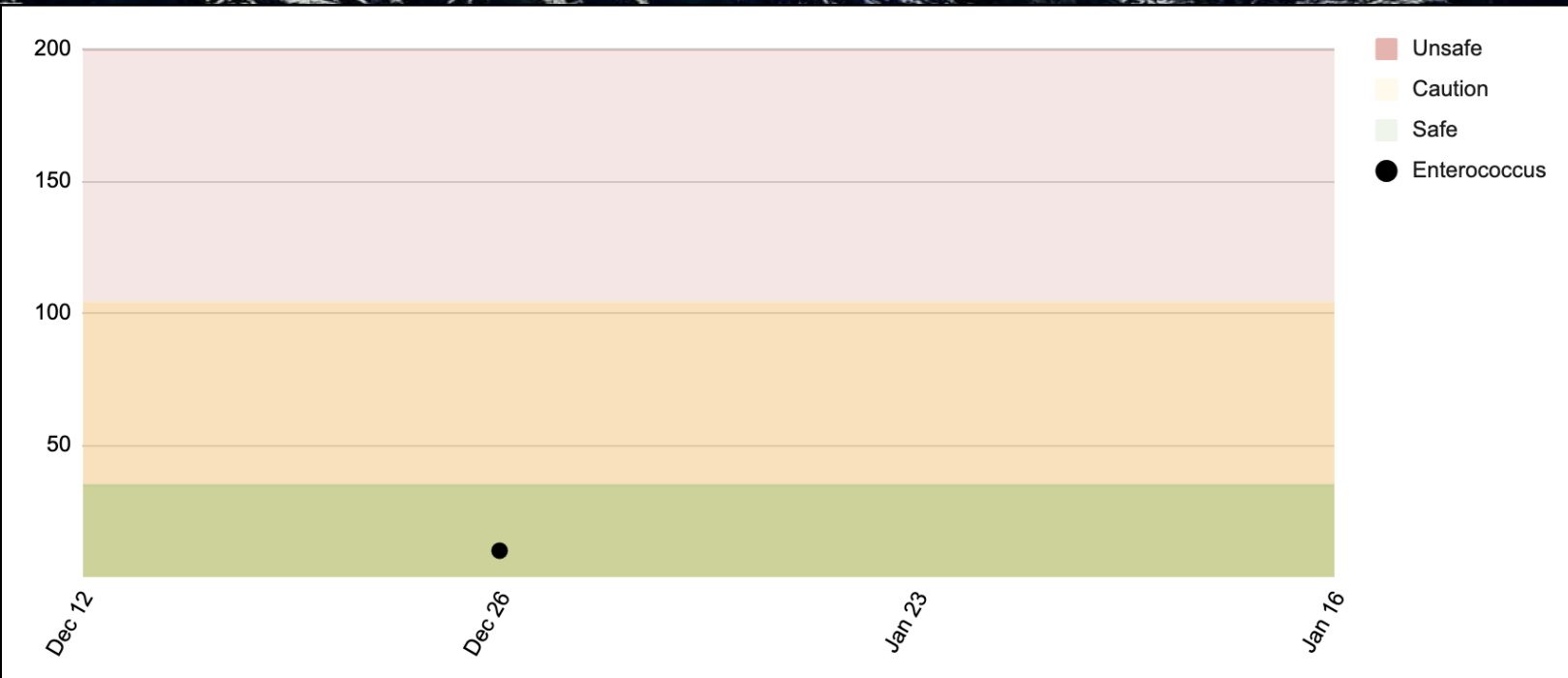
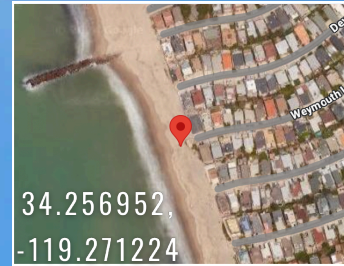
Weymouth Lane in Pierpont showed improved water quality conditions during our wet weather season compared to last year. Every survey but one registered safe water entry conditions.



# RESULTS BY SITE: WEYMOUTH DRAIN

**0%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Weymouth Storm Drain had no flow all season. In March, construction crews started to demolish the storm drain to increase outflow and reduce potential neighborhood flooding.

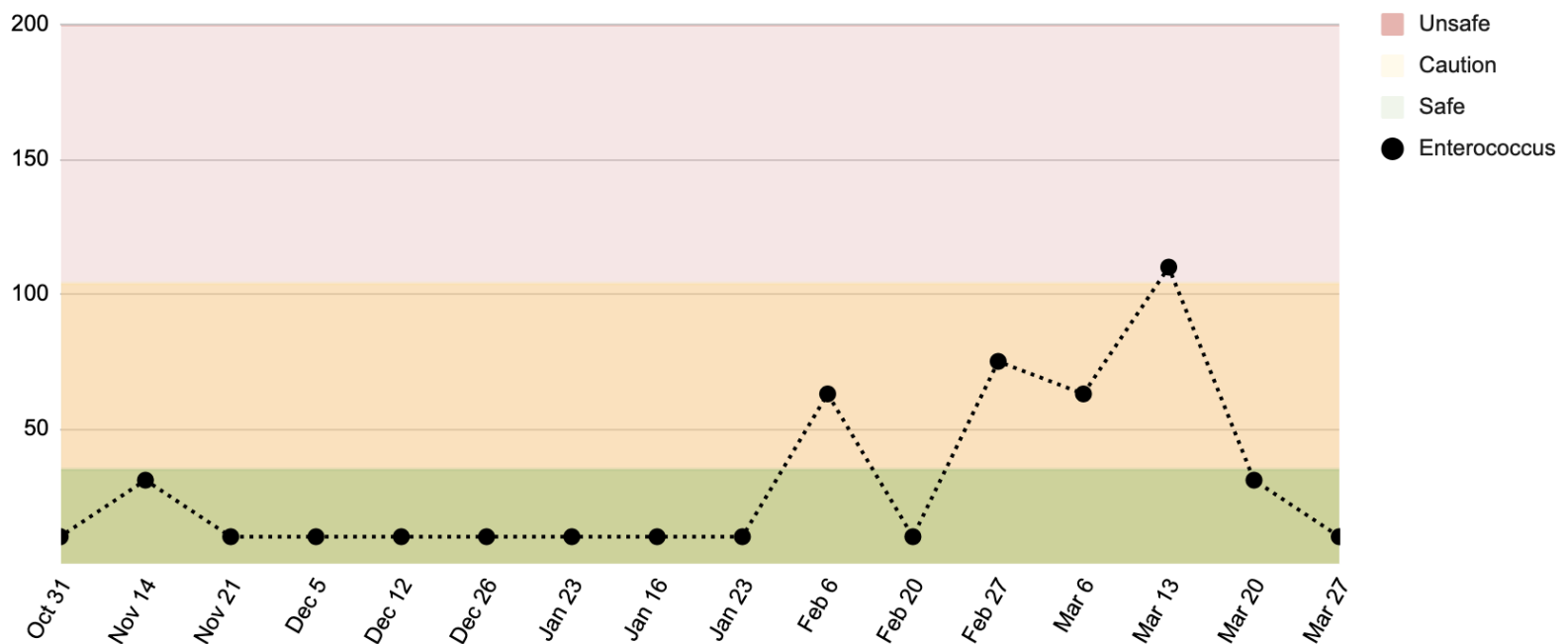
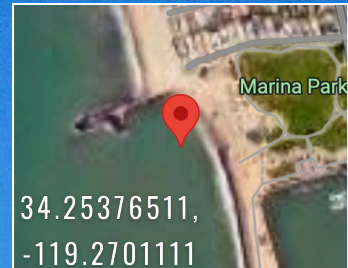




# RESULTS BY SITE: MARINA PARK PLAYGROUND

**6%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

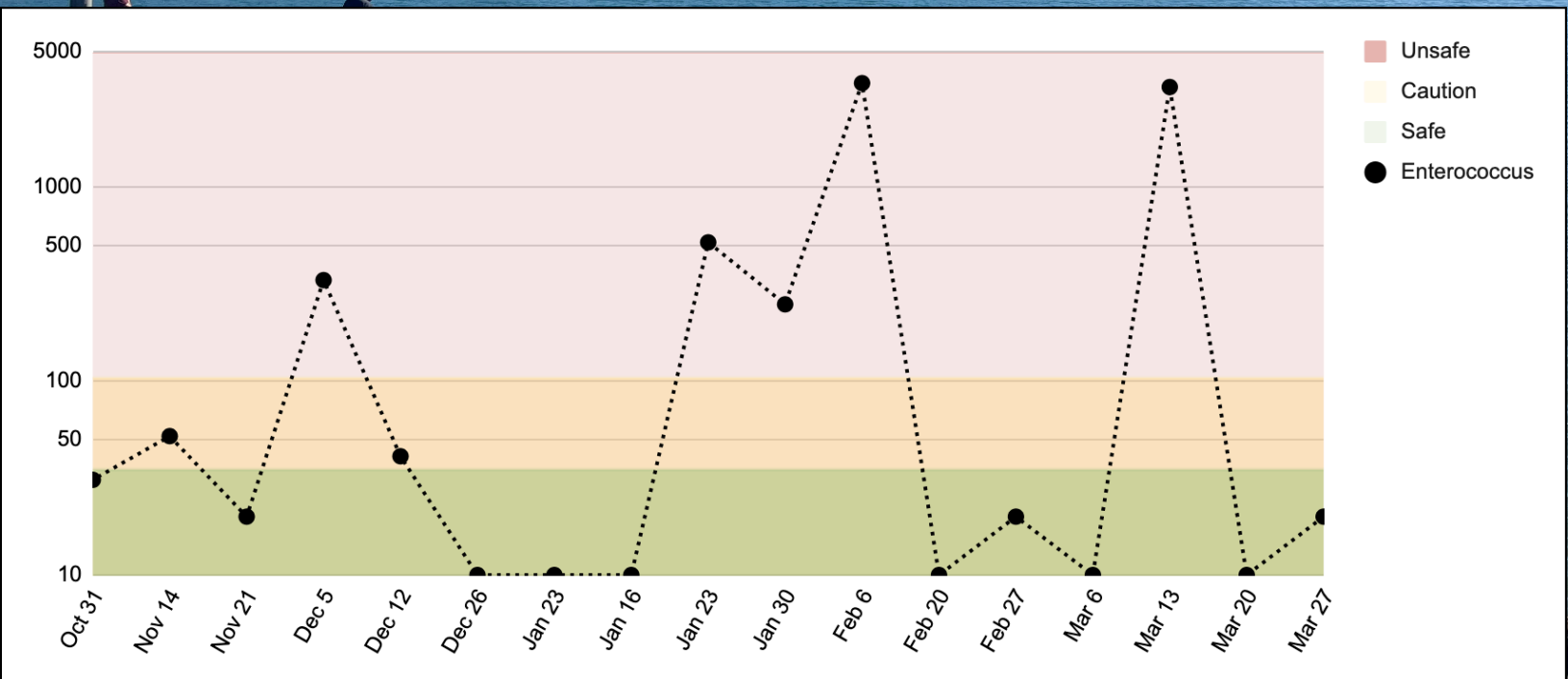
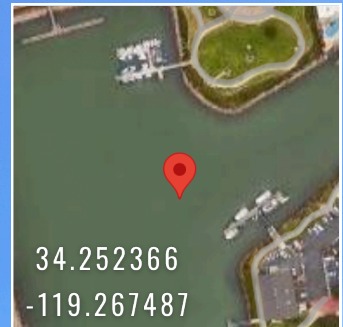
Marina Park monitoring yielded the greatest year-over-year drop in high bacteria levels at any of our local beach sites (41% previously vs. 6% this season).



# RESULTS BY SITE: LEO ROBBINS

**29%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Leo Robbins Sailing Center remained a site of concern, as high bacteria levels persisted this wet weather year with 5 weekly surveys registering as unsafe.

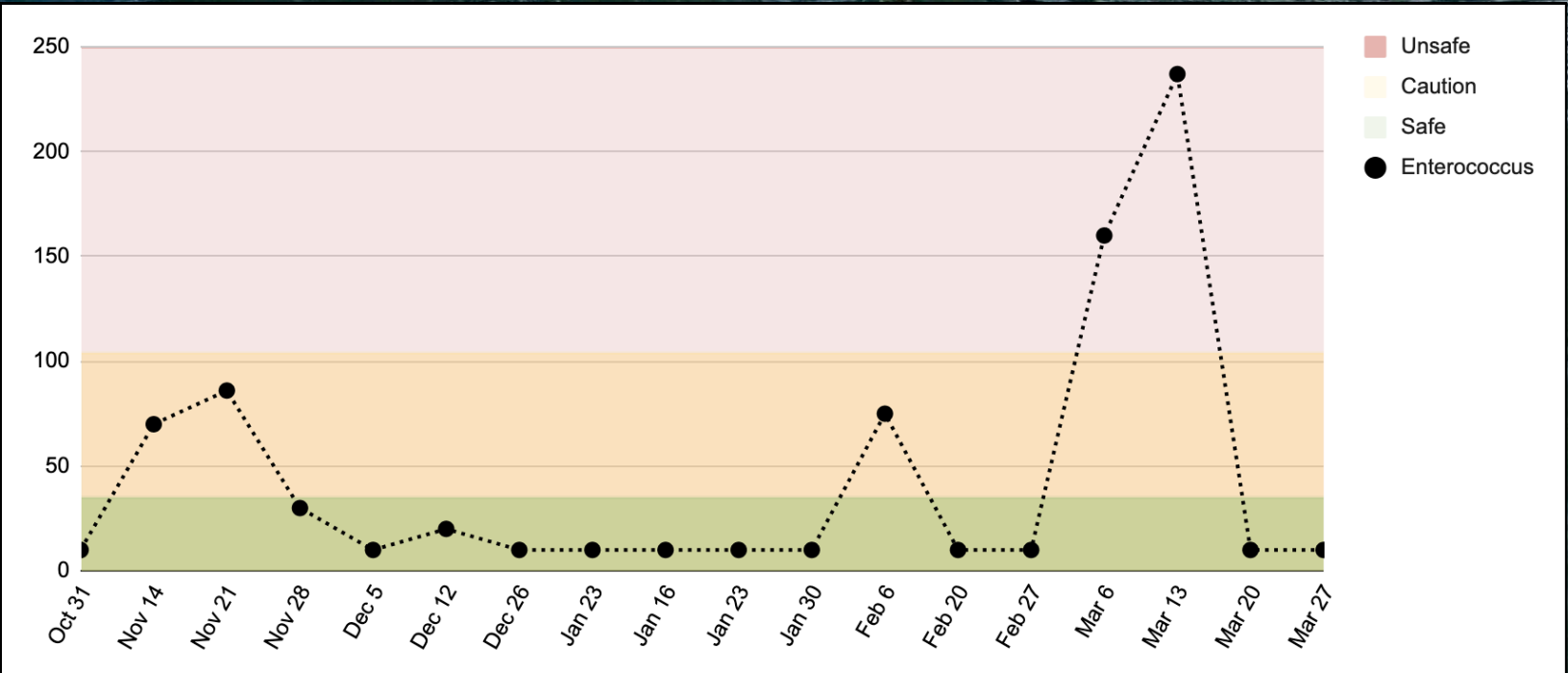
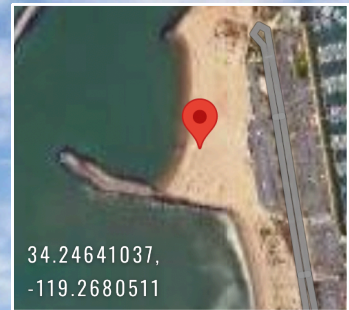




# RESULTS BY SITE: HARBOR COVE

**11%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

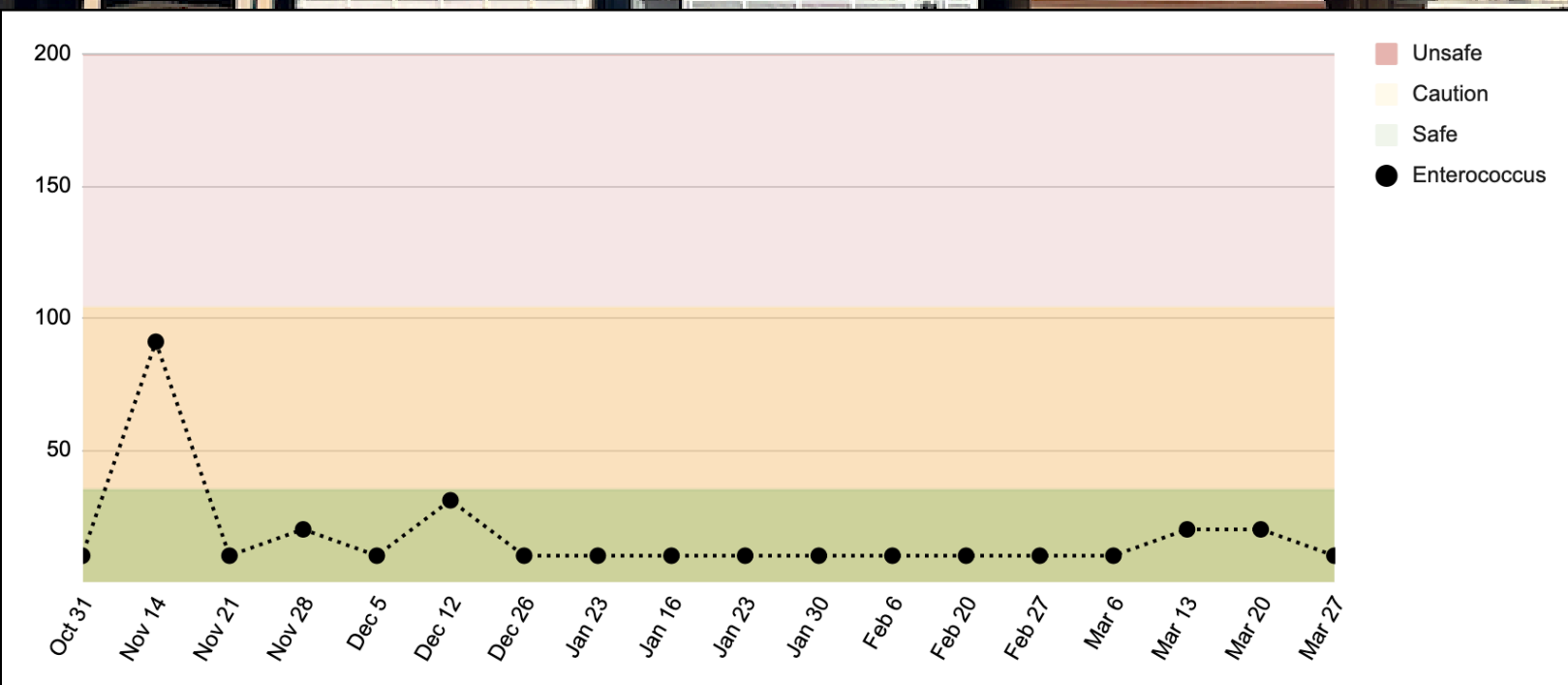
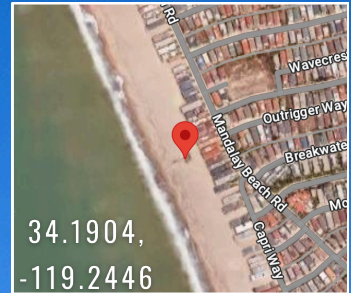
Harbor Cove had improved test results this season with high bacteria levels falling from nearly a third of surveys last year (29%) to about one-in-ten samples this year.



# RESULTS BY SITE: OXNARD BEACH OUTRIGGER WAY

**0%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Results from Oxnard Beach at Outrigger Way showed no unsafe water entry conditions this winter with lower rainfall conditions.



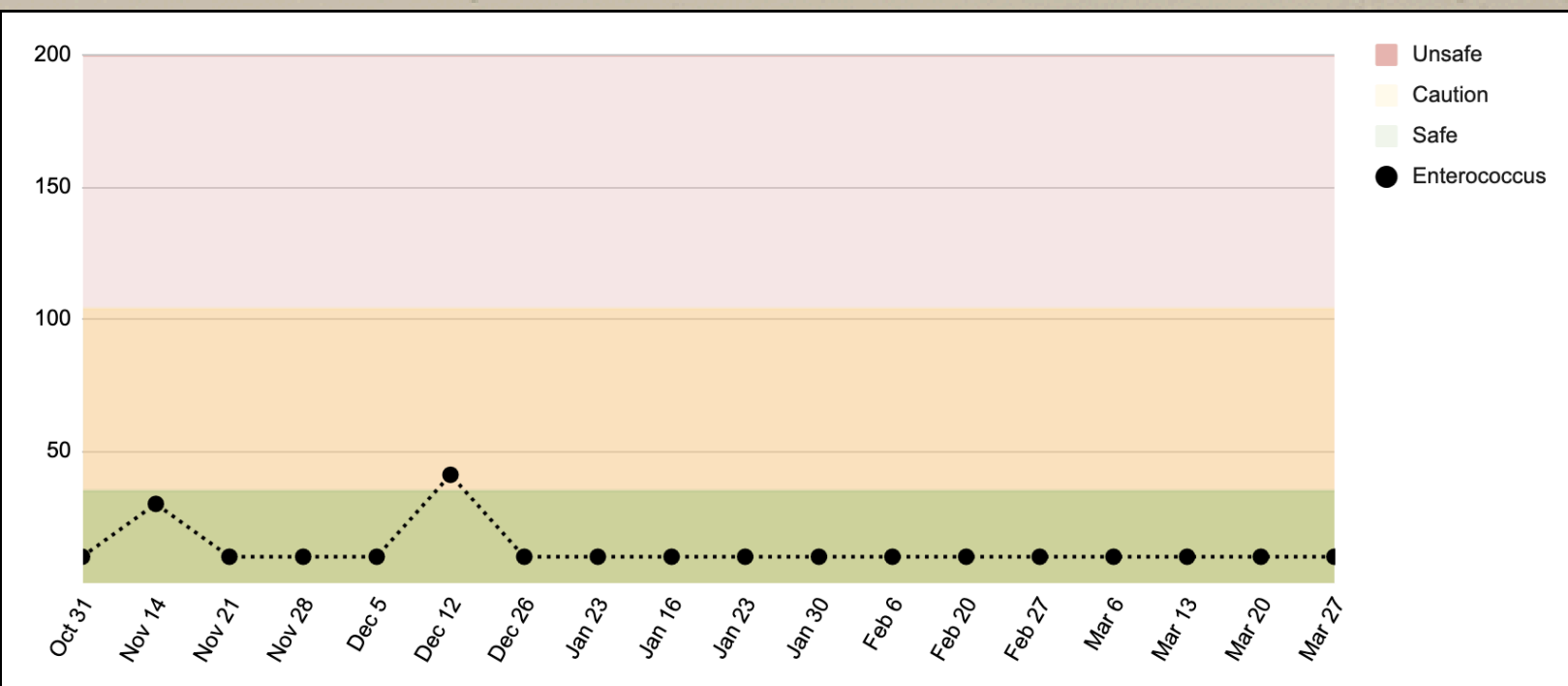
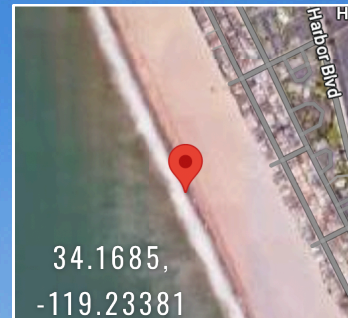


# RESULTS BY SITE:

## HOLLYWOOD BEACH LA CRESCENTA STREET

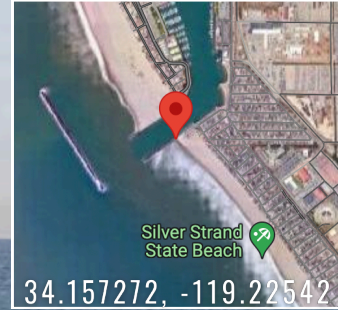
**0%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

Hollywood Beach at La Crescenta Street indicated low levels of fecal indicator bacteria all season. Low rainfall levels decreased street and drain flooding that are pumped back onto the beach.

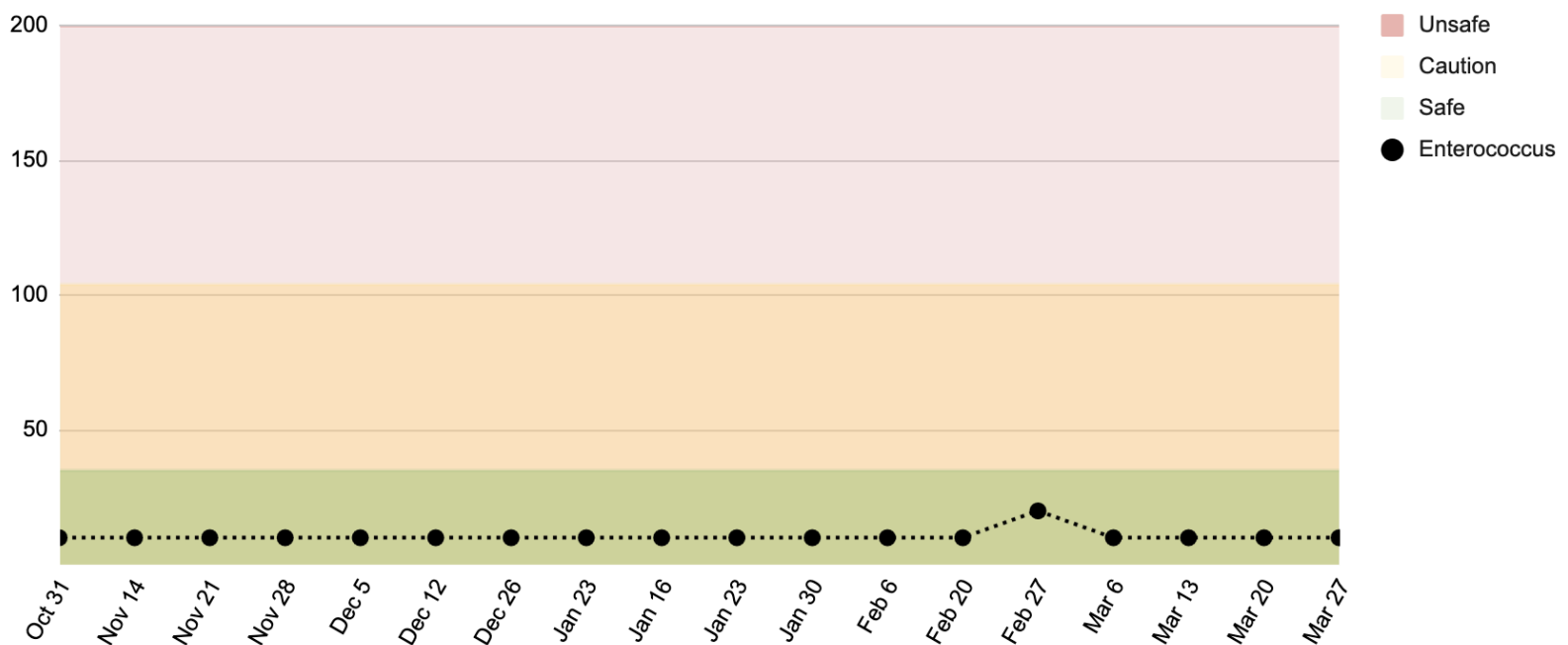


# RESULTS BY SITE: SILVER STRAND SAN NICHOLAS AVE

**0%**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS



Silver Strand emerged with the lowest levels of fecal indicator bacteria among the sites surveyed by BWTF during the 2024-2025 wet weather season in Ventura County.

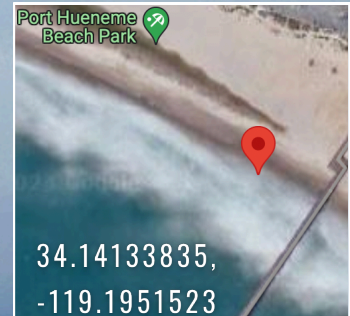




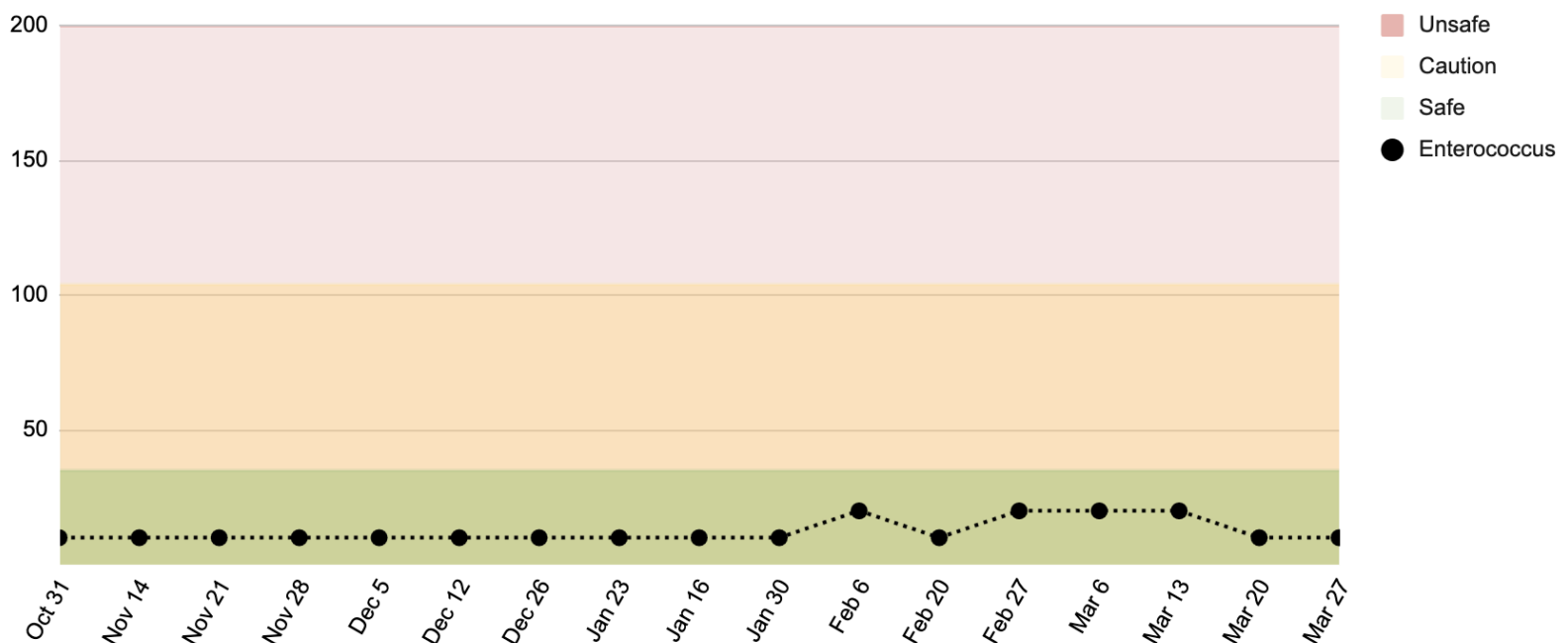
# RESULTS BY SITE: PORT HUENEME BEACH PARK

**0 %**  
OF SAMPLES HAD  
HIGH BACTERIA  
LEVELS

On February 9, 2025, an estimated 80,000 gallons of treated sewage spilled from the ocean outfall of Oxnard's wastewater treatment plant on Perkins Road, closing nearby beaches in Oxnard and Port Hueneme.




Ventura County's Environmental Health Division posted warning signs for one week at Port Hueneme Beach Park, as well as along Ormond Beach at J Street, the industrial drain, and Arnold Road. Throughout the rest of the wet weather season, however, our results indicated low levels of fecal indicator bacteria.





# VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The water quality survey results herein are brought to you through community efforts of the Surfrider Foundation Ventura County Chapter Blue Water Task Force leaders and volunteers.

Thanks to: Adolfo, Aler, Ariel, Christy, Chuck, Dave, Harvard, Jen, Joy, Katie, Kenny, Mark, Michelle, Mike, Steve, Mrs. Hunt and the lab students from Foothill Tech High School Blue Water Task Force.

This program is made possible through the generous funding in memory of Chuck Vinson, the Chatlen Family Memorial Fund, Yardi Systems, Inc., and Holdfast Collective Patagonia.





# HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE 2025-2026 MONITORING SEASON:

NOW RECRUITING FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON!  
CONTACT JOY DOWNING-RILEY  
[BWTF@VENTURA.SURFRIDER.ORG](mailto:BWTF@VENTURA.SURFRIDER.ORG)  
MORE GENERAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE [BWTF.SURFRIDER.ORG](http://BWTF.SURFRIDER.ORG)

