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# Pollution Down But Lagoon Still Not Safe In Capitola

Water Pollution

Latest results from test samples for fecal coliform (a pollution indicator) in the lagoon area of Soquel Creek reveal the count has dropped considerably.

Tests taken Friday by County Sanitarian Richard Prince show the count has fallen at four places in comparison to July 3 samples. The July 25 counts were (with July 3 count in parenthesis): Esplanade testing spot 460 (525); storm drain below Blue Gum Avenue 440 (1000); behind Venetian Courts 295 (750); behind Disco 520 (1000).

Other samples were taken at the Noble Gulch inlet to Soquel Creek and below the train trestle, where the count was 350 and 940, respectively.

Prince said the 940 count at the trestle "could be our number one 'problem.'" Hundreds of pigeons nest along the trestle.

Last month the county health department posted as unsafe the lagoon area of the creek after it found the county was

4000 per 100 milliliters of water in the Esplanade area.

The state, which has recommended the maximum allowable count be 200 where there is swimming, told Capitola it could not build a dam at the lagoon's mouth until the water is cleaned up.

Since then the health department and Capitola have found numerous violations of sanitation codes near the creek and issued notices to correct the matter.

The city recently found faulty septic tanks near the creek's banks for houses along Monterey Avenue. The count at those three septic tank areas was more than 3000, according to City Manager Ryder Ray.

Capitola also found two leaks on the main sewer line that runs parallel to the creek.

Said Ray, "The count seems to be dropping since the county and city have issued notices for corrections."