

Sent 8/7/69 p13 Water Pollution

Pollution Count Continues To Go Down In Soquel Creek

For swimmers who enjoy the Soquel Creek Lagoon, things are beginning to look up.

The fecal coliform count (a pollution indicator) continue to

go down, according to recent tests.

The count has fallen sharply at three testing spots — the Esplanade, from 460 to 175, the storm drain below Blue Gum Avenue, from 440 to 65, and behind the Venetian Courts, from 295 to 205.

The first two counts are under the 200 figure, which the state has recommended be the maximum allowable count where there is swimming.

However, County Sanitarian Richard Prince, who has been taking the tests weekly, said last week's test marked the first time they were taken during high tide and, "This could be the reason for significant change."

He said salt water entering the lagoon may act as a "dissolution function and cause bacteria static action to the water."

Prince plans to show the test results Monday to County Health Officer Dr. Richard Svihus, who last June ordered the lagoon area posted as unsafe for water sports when the count was 4000 at some spots.

Prince said tests taken behind DISCO are no longer being taken "because we once thought there was a sewage leak there, but found this is not true."