



Heal the Bay

**Introduce yourself; thank participants for joining and *double check* they have signed a waiver.**

### **Los Angeles Water Quality**

- *STORM DRAIN: Who has seen one before? Why do we have them? What do they usually look like?*
- Storm drains take the rainwater and runoff directly to the ocean untreated.
- *What kind of consequences can that have?*
  - Trash, bacteria, dead zones, chemical runoff.
- Polluted water is an environmental and public health issue.
- 80% of the trash in the ocean comes from land through the storm drain system. And up to 80% of that trash is made of plastic, which cannot biodegrade so it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces (microplastics).
  - Heal the Bay is working on policies to reduce single-use plastic.
- Stormwater can also carry bacteria like e.coli and fecal coliforms.
  - Heal the Bay created Beach Report Card, so you know when it's safe to swim at the beach.
- The LA River watershed is a huge part of LA County's storm drain system
  - Heal the Bay is part of the LA River revitalization effort to enhance recreation and ecological habitats.

### **CLEANUP INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Minors (under 13yrs) must be supervised at all times.**
- Work in groups of 4-5 people.
- Each group gets one bag/bucket, one data card, and one pencil. Each person gets one glove.
- Always use your gloved hand to pick up trash.
- Fill out the data card carefully; Heal the Bay uses this data for advocacy and education.
- Come back at *[set time]*.
- Have two people in your group return trash/data cards at the end of the cleanup.

### **What NOT to Pick Up**

1. **DO NOT** pick up syringes, needles, sharp objects, condoms, tampons, waste materials, etc. Mark the area and notify a site captain, if possible.
2. **DO NOT** pick up any weapons. Notify site captain, on duty lifeguard or police.
3. **DO NOT** pick up dead/injured animals. Notify site captain, if possible.
4. **DO NOT** pick up natural things (plants, rocks, sticks and tar) - they belong on the beach.
5. **WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T TOUCH IT!**

### **Cleanup Boundaries & Safety**

- Stay out of the water! No swimming.
- Be careful of sneaker waves (don't turn your back to the ocean).
- Be mindful of your surroundings and health.
- Be careful of uneven terrain and bike paths.

### **Swimming Health Risks**

- Swim at least 100 yards away from flowing storm drains and piers
- Avoid swimming at the beach for 3 days after a rainstorm.
- Download the Beach Report Card app or find it online at [www.beachreportcard.org](http://www.beachreportcard.org)

**Have a great cleanup! 😊**