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BEACH SERVICE CURTAILMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY BEACHES

MARINA DEL REY, CALIF. – APRIL 4, 2011 – The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors announced plans to implement beach service curtailments beginning on May 1st in order to achieve its operating budget targets and to more efficiently deploy a reduced number of beach maintenance personnel available to serve an exploding beach population. The curtailments are due to the State’s historic budget crisis and the overall local economy severely hampering the Department’s ability to sustain beach maintenance services provided in the past.

As part of a comprehensive plan to minimize anticipated negative impacts to beachgoers, a new cleaning schedule commencing at 7:00 a.m. will take effect, with the cleanliness of beach restrooms being the highest service priority. Some restrooms may not be opened and serviced until as late as 11:00 a.m. year-round by Beaches and Harbors maintenance crews, allowing them to work later into the afternoon when bathroom use peaks.

During winter months, maintenance staff will only be able to perform one “heavy” cleaning of the restrooms each day. Additionally, a number of Los Angeles County beach restrooms will be closed on weekdays and possibly some weekends, which has been the case in the past.

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Other beach services such as weed abatement, landscaping, large debris cleanup, parking lot/stairway/embankment cleaning, volleyball net replacement, etc. will be performed when daily staffing levels allow. Operation of beach-cleaning equipment will continue at present levels, adhering to the same historical summer work schedule, allowing work to be performed before the beach becomes crowded. During the winter, however, equipment operators will also commence work at the later time of 7:00 a.m.

These actions are intended to reduce the number of beaches subject to closure and further service reductions.

For additional information regarding beach restroom closures, visit Beaches and Harbors on Facebook at Facebook.com/LACDBH or beaches.lacounty.gov. or twitter.com/lacdbh

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