

Fact Sheet



Newport Bay Trash Interceptor

Project Need

Hundreds of tons of trash each year washes into Newport Beach's bay, harbor and ocean. This trash comes from inland communities through the Upper Newport Bay watershed, a network of storm drains, rivers, creeks, and canals. The Upper Newport Bay watershed spans 154 square miles, encompassing the cities of Irvine, Tustin, Orange, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana and Newport Beach.

The City of Newport Beach is pursuing a sustainably powered system that will collect a significant amount of trash from upstream sources before it enters the bay and ocean. The \$3 million Trash Interceptor is expected to reduce the amount of waste reaching the Upper Newport Bay by 80 percent (estimated between 100 to 500 tons a year).

The project will supplement other efforts already in place – such as trash booms, storm drain collection systems and floating skimmers – to prevent trash from entering sensitive aquatic environments.

Location

The Trash Interceptor will be located in San Diego Creek between the Jamboree Road Bridge and Hwy 73, just upstream from the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.

How it Works

The Trash Interceptor sits on a floating platform that rises and falls with the tide. The platform is secured to the creek bottom by guide piles. The platform holds a 14-foot wheel that spins using power from the river current or solar panels to move a conveyor belt.

Trash floating downriver is collected in four phases:

- 1 A boom system directs floating trash toward the Interceptor.
- 2 A spinning rake moves trash from the boom area to the conveyor belt.
- 3 Trash is deposited from the conveyor belt into a collection container.
- 4 When full, the container is moved by a short rail system to be transferred to a standard trash truck.

Funding Partners

- City of Newport Beach
- Help your Harbor/Surfrider Foundation
- Ocean Protection Council
- Orange County Transportation Authority

Next Steps

The City is seeking a final \$1 million to supplement City contributions, public agency and generous donations from nonprofit groups.

