



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

City of San Diego to Release Red Dye into Mission Bay to Study Water Circulation for Future Restoration Projects

**NONTOXIC DYE WILL BE VISIBLE FOR ABOUT A WEEK
 AND IS SAFE FOR ENVIRONMENT**

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego will release fluorescent red dye into Mission Bay tomorrow to study water circulation as part of a larger environmental project. Data will help the City design future water quality improvements and ecological restoration projects at the bay.

The nontoxic dye will be visible for about a week. It is made of rhodamine and is safe for use in drinking water and salt water. The dye will naturally become absorbed into the bay and is not expected to leave any residue on beaches or have any other long-term effects.

Public recreation and use of Mission Bay will not be restricted during or following the dye release. It will be safe to continue water contact recreation activities during this study.

“We want to assure the public that even though the red dye may be visible at first, it is completely safe and won’t have any long-term effects on the environment,” said Keli Balo, Assistant Deputy Director of the City’s Public Utilities Department. “The water circulation data we collect will help us improve Mission Bay and give us a tool to protect it for future generations of San Diegans.”

The dye will be released into the Rose Creek inlet to the bay from the Mike Gotch Memorial Pedestrian Bridge between Campland on the Bay and De Anza Cove. The movement of the dye will be recorded using visual and drone surveys and will aid City staff in the understanding of water circulation patterns within Mission Bay.

This water circulation study is part of the City’s Northeast Mission Bay Wetland Restoration Supplement Environmental Project and will provide data about the dispersion of contaminants that enter Mission Bay from Rose Creek.

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