

ENCINITAS – A spill of some 73,500 gallons of wastewater prompted a public pollution alert Monday along a stretch of North County coastline, officials said.

A power failure at an inland sanitation plant sent secondary-treated sewage into Escondido Creek from about 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, according to the county Department of Environmental Health.

The waterway flows into San Elijo Lagoon and, ultimately, the surf off Cardiff State Beach in Encinitas.

The DEH posted pollution warning signs along the ocean shoreline on both sides of the estuary's outlet. The health advisory will remain in effect until follow-up testing deems the area safe for human contact.