

# City of Seal Beach

714.847.3581 | RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA



Sustainability in Action



## Stay Safe During Summer Celebrations

As fun as they are, summer barbecues also require safe disposal practices. Taking a few extra precautions can help protect your neighborhood and help keep Seal Beach safe.

### Charcoal and Ashes

Hot charcoal and ashes can remain dangerous long after cooking is finished and can ignite fires if placed directly into waste containers. Follow these tips for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to cool for at least 48 hours or carefully pour water over them and stir until they are completely extinguished.
- Once fully cooled, place them in a small metal container or wrap them in aluminum foil before placing them in the outdoor trash.



- Keep the container away from paper or other combustible materials.

### Old Grills

If you are replacing an old grill this season, consider donating it if it is still in usable condition. Organizations such as Goodwill may accept gas, electric or charcoal grills depending on their condition. Be sure to remove any propane tanks before donating, as propane tanks are considered hazardous materials. Charcoal grills should also be emptied and all ashes completely extinguished beforehand.

Propane tanks should never be placed in your trash or recycling container. Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers accept propane tanks that are five gallons or smaller for proper disposal. By handling these seasonal items responsibly, residents can help prevent fires, protect sanitation workers and keep Seal Beach safe all summer long.

### Fireworks

Please remember: All fireworks are illegal in Seal Beach—no exceptions. Municipal Code (§7.20.065) prohibits the sale, possession or discharge of any fireworks, including so-called “safe and sane” varieties.

Violations are a misdemeanor and may result in arrest or a citation carrying fines up to \$1,000, plus the cost of seizing and disposing of the fireworks.

If you hear fireworks, please do not call 9-1-1 unless there is an immediate threat to life or serious injury. Emergency lines must remain available for life-threatening situations. Noise complaints without a suspect in sight can divert limited police and dispatch resources from true emergencies. If you witness someone actively lighting fireworks or engaging in another dangerous activity, contact the 24-hour non-emergency dispatcher at **562.594.7232**.

### Safe Celebrating and Responsible Driving

Stay safe while you are celebrating! Don't drink and drive! Find an alternative method of transportation to ensure the safety of yourself and other community members. Utilize rideshare apps, or use a designated sober driver or public transit.

Respect beach rules. Alcohol, smoking, glass containers, open flames and overnight camping are prohibited on the beach and pier. Dogs other than service animals, bicycles, e-bikes, motor vehicles and watercraft are not allowed on the sand or in the near-shore swim zone.

## Cleaning Up the San Gabriel River

On Wednesday, May 13, the San Gabriel River Trash Mitigation Initiative Memorandum of Understanding press event took place at the Aquarium of the Pacific. In partnership with The Ocean Cleanup, Los Angeles County, Orange County and Long Beach, the City is advancing a regional effort to address visible trash and debris impacting the Pacific Ocean and our shorelines. Councilmember Joe Kalmick has been a strong advocate for addressing this issue and was instrumental in forming the San Gabriel River Working Group, which includes federal, state, regional, local and nonprofit partners collaborating to advance this initiative. This event marked an exciting step forward as the project enters the implementation phase for a trash interceptor within the San Gabriel River. To learn more, visit **SGRcleanup.com**.



*Pictured at the San Gabriel River Trash Mitigation Initiative Event are Seal Beach City Manager Patrick Gallegos, Public Works Director Iris Lee, and Council Members Joe Kalmick, Patty Senecal and Nathan Steele.*

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## Avoid Single-Use Plastics at Summer Cookouts

- **Plan Your Menu Wisely** – Prioritize easy-to-eat finger foods like hot dogs, hamburgers, kebabs and popsicles. Simple menu items reduce the need for extra packaging, utensils and single-use serving products.
- **Choose Reusables** – Opt for reusable plates, silverware and food containers instead of disposable items. Ask guests to bring reusable water bottles and avoid plastic straws whenever possible.
- **Skip Single-Use Bottles** – Instead of purchasing individual plastic water bottles, transfer beverages into reusable glass, aluminum or refillable containers before heading to your cookout.
- **Decorate Without Plastic** – Use cloth tablecloths instead of disposable coverings, place tea lights inside mason jars for lighting and borrow extra chairs or supplies from neighbors rather than purchasing new items.
- **Create a Waste Plan** – Plastic cups, plates and utensils are often “wish-cycled,” meaning nonrecyclable items are mistakenly placed in recycling bins, causing contamination. Set up clearly labeled trash, recycling and food waste containers so guests know where each item belongs.
- **Keep Summer Sustainable** – A little planning can significantly reduce waste and help keep plastic out of landfills, waterways and oceans.



Credit: Nansan Houn | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Organics Recycling in Seal Beach

California’s Senate Bill (SB) 1383, passed in 2016, was created to fight climate change by reducing short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, which is released when organic material breaks down in landfills. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that the state has identified as a major contributor to climate change. The law sets a goal of reducing the amount of organic waste sent to California landfills by 75%. To meet this target, cities across the state are introducing new programs that change the way residents handle food scraps, yard trimmings and food-soiled paper.

In Seal Beach, the current organics program only includes yard debris, such as grass clippings, leaves, small branches and other garden waste. Palm fronds, cacti, succulents, rocks, soil, pet waste, recyclables and trash are not accepted in the organics container. When Seal Beach’s SB 1383 Program takes effect, the program will expand to include food waste, from leftover cooked meat, fish and poultry, including bones, to fruits, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta and grains. Food-soiled paper products, such as napkins, wet paper towels and coffee filters, will also be accepted in the organics container.

Until the expanded program begins, residents can continue to recycle clean, dry paper, cardboard, envelopes, magazines, newspapers, office and school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags and wrapping paper without metal in their recycling cart or dumpster, along with metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers. Many businesses and multi-family properties are already required to recycle these materials under AB 341.

## MySealBeach Brings Convenience to Residents

Seal Beach residents now have a convenient way to report service needs with the MySealBeach app. During City Hall closings, business hours or after hours, we have an easier way of reporting a work request. The app allows you to report the issue directly to our utilities and maintenance teams. Scan the QR Code here, and be part of ensuring that Seal Beach remains a great place to live. With an easy six-step process, the app makes staying connected to your city easier than ever.



## City Hall Adventure Day

On May 27, we hosted our first-ever City Hall Adventure Day in partnership with McGaugh Elementary School. We hosted almost 100 third graders at City Hall, where students learned more about local government by going through different rotations with each department and ultimately becoming a Civic Superhero! Learning about civics and local government is included in the third-grade curriculum, and we hope they left feeling excited about being a part of our community. A big thank you to McGaugh Elementary and all our city staff for a great event! We can’t wait until next year!



*Republic Services Sustainability Advisor Aric Burks explains the operations of the collection truck.*

## El Niño

El Niño is expected to bring heavy rain, strong winds and rising flood risk to California and Orange County this year. Take steps now to help protect your family, home and property before storms arrive. During storms, secure trash bins so they don’t float or tip. Information will be provided should trash collection be impacted by heavy storms. To learn more about emergency preparedness, please visit [Sealbeachpd.com/emergency-preparedness](https://sealbeachpd.com/emergency-preparedness).

## Youth Tours Offered at City Hall

Did you know we offer tours for children’s groups, including scout troops and afterschool programs, at both City Hall and Republic Services? Email [AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov) for more information.

## Keep Storm Drains Clean

Protecting Seal Beach's waterways starts with understanding what enters our storm drains and how easily everyday pollution can reach the ocean. Anything that flows into a storm drain travels directly to local waterways without being treated. Preventing pollution at the source is essential to safeguarding our beaches, marine habitats and overall quality of life.

The City of Seal Beach has implemented several programs to reduce pollutants from entering storm and urban runoff. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Ordinance is in place, and all residential and commercial streets, including City-owned parking lots, receive regular street sweeping services. Approximately 143 businesses are inspected annually to ensure they are not contributing to ocean pollution. City employees also routinely participate in training programs that promote best practices for construction and maintenance projects. In addition, the City has established ongoing public outreach and education efforts and requires Water Quality Management Plans for development projects.

Many residents may not realize that Seal Beach has two separate drainage systems that serve very different purposes. The sewer system carries wastewater to a treatment facility where it is cleaned before being reused or safely deposited into the ocean away from local beaches. Storm drains, however, are different. Water that enters storm drains flows directly to local waterways and the ocean without being treated first. Because anything that enters a storm drain can eventually reach our beaches and marine habitats, preventing pollution before it enters the system is essential.

Residents can help protect local water quality in several simple ways. Maintaining vehicles can help prevent oil and other fluid leaks from reaching storm drains. When washing a vehicle at home, direct water onto your lawn or landscaping and use biodegradable phosphate-free soap whenever possible. Used motor oil should always be recycled at a designated collection center rather than poured down a drain or into the gutter. Pet owners should always pick up after their animals and properly dispose of pet waste. If you encounter a spill, avoid hosing it into the street. Instead, use an absorbent material such as kitty litter and dispose of the waste in the trash.

If you notice a catch basin that is full or needs attention, contact the City at **562.431.2527**, ext. **1414**.

## Eco Challenge Teaches Kids to Go Green

Orange County Waste & Recycling is offering an Eco Challenge and a free admission ticket to the Discovery Cube Orange County for children ages 3-14! Master the skills of a green superhero by learning how to become an eco-friendly shopper and discover the importance of identifying and properly disposing of household hazardous waste. Then, get the dirt on trash and learn how to be wise about sorting trash. Eco Challenge gives superheroes of all ages the chance to make their own Earth-friendly choices... are you up to the challenge? For more details about the Eco Challenge and to grab the coupon, visit **[OClandfills.com/coupon](https://oclandfills.com/coupon)**.



## Bulky Item Pickup

Furniture and old appliances are among the most common items illegally dumped along roadways, in parks and on vacant lots. There is no need to dump these items improperly. By appointment, Republic Services provides pickup for large items at the curb. Seal Beach Residents are entitled to 2 bulky items divided over 2 pickups within a one-year span, 1 item per pickup. Items cannot be over 6 feet long or over 100 pounds. If you have large glass items, an "X" must be taped on to prevent breakage.

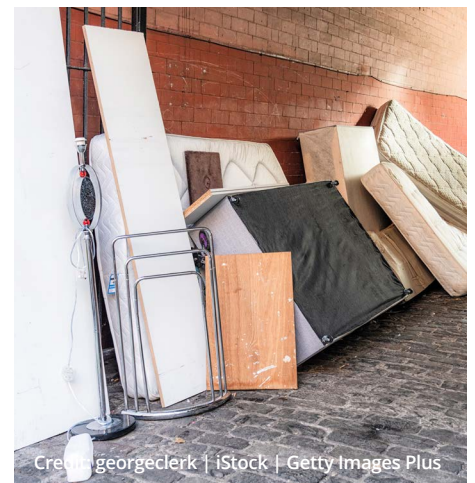
This does not apply to Seal Beach commercial multi-family properties. The property or facility manager must schedule the removal of bulky items from the site by contacting Republic Services. No Construction and Demolition-related waste can be picked up by our drivers as part of your yearly pickups.

Call Republic Services Customer Service at **714.847.3581** to request a special bulky item pickup at least 48 hours before your regular collection day. Note: Additional items will be collected for a fee, or you can rent a temporary dumpster for a larger cleanout.



## Report Illegal Dumping

If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity. Write down a description of the location, person and/or vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Call the Police Department's non-emergency number at **562.594.7232** to report this activity.



## Safely Handling Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown in the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, cleaning supplies and more. Never toss HHW into the trash. HHW can endanger children or pets, result in spills in your neighborhood, or cause fires if it is placed into curbside carts.

Dispose of HHW at no charge Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at one of the four Orange County HHW Collection Centers. You can also dispose of batteries and old electronic devices at these centers. For locations, a list of accepted materials and more information, visit **[OClandfills.com/hazardous](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous)**.

## Orange County Public Library Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, OC Public Libraries is offering a reading challenge, in-branch programming, grab & go craft kits, author events, reading lists and at select branch locations, Lunch at the Library. Participate in our weekly scavenger hunts and activities, and return each week for something new to find! Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at [OCpl.beanstack.org](https://ocpl.beanstack.org) or download the free Beanstack app. Set up one account and add all the readers in your family! Complete fun activities to earn virtual badges. Learn more at [OCpl.org/summer-reading-2026](https://ocpl.org/summer-reading-2026).



## Mark Your Calendar

- **Edison Community Gardens Cleanup Days** – Friday, August 7, from 8 a.m. to noon, and Saturday, October 24, from 8 a.m. to noon
- **Movie in the Park on Saturday, August 1, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** – Gather your family and friends for an evening under the stars at Heather Park. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and your favorite movie snacks for a fun community movie night.
- **Pink Walk on Saturday, October 3** – Join the City of Seal Beach for a community Pink Walk in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Additional details will be announced closer to the event date. For questions or information about getting involved, email [AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov).
- **Seal Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, November 21, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Celebrate the start of the holiday season at Eisenhower Park during the annual Seal Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony. Co-sponsored by Republic Services, this festive community event will feature holiday cheer and family-friendly activities.
- **Breakfast with Santa in December** – Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the Marina Community Center for this holiday tradition. Families are invited to enjoy breakfast, seasonal activities and photo opportunities with Santa. Event date and additional details will be announced at a later time.

## Summer Coloring Raffle

We are excited to announce a Summer Coloring Raffle for Seal Beach residents ages 5 to 12! The coloring sheet features our beloved turtles that live in the pond in the City Hall Courtyard by our Pollinator Garden. Visit our garden to get inspiration for your picture!

Stop by City Hall to pick up the coloring sheet, or download the coloring sheet at [Sealbeachca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Maintenance-Operations#trash\\_recycling](https://sealbeachca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Maintenance-Operations#trash_recycling). Return your completed page to City Hall by Tuesday, August 11, at 5 p.m.

Artwork will be displayed in the 1st Floor Hallway of City Hall as it is received until Tuesday, September 8. Artists will be entered into a raffle to win a small prize from Republic Services. If you have questions, please email [AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@sealbeachca.gov).

## Contact Us

Republic Services

17121 Nichols Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

714.847.3581

[RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA](https://RepublicServices.com/SealBeachCA)

## Mandatory Recycling for Food Service Businesses

- AB 827 – Limited-service restaurants in California must now provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees. This law also applies to food courts and other businesses that sell food for on-site consumption.
- AB 1826 – California businesses are required to reduce the volume of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. Organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste (recyclables, trash and organics) per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.



## Holiday Collection Schedule

- Independence Day – Saturday, July 4, 2026: (No commercial service on July 4. Customers will have regular service June 29 – July 3.)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2026 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26, 2026 (service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Friday, December 25, 2026 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2027 (service delayed one day)



## Stay Informed

The Seal Beach Police Department uses a range of communication methods to keep residents informed, particularly during emergencies. These include AlertOC notifications, Nixle Instant Alerts via text, and social media. To learn more and to sign up for alerts, visit [Sealbeachpd.com](https://Sealbeachpd.com).



[SealBeachCA.gov](https://SealBeachCA.gov)

562.431.2527

[AskCityHall@SealBeachCA.gov](mailto:AskCityHall@SealBeachCA.gov)

## Support Local Businesses

[SealBeachChamber.org](https://SealBeachChamber.org)



REPUBLIC SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

