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## DNA Sampling and Falconeering

To determine the cause of bacteria at the Arroyo Quemada Beach, the Solid Waste & Utilities Division worked closely with environmental groups to conduct a DNA study. Results indicated that 80% of the bacteria was caused by birds. This led to the conclusion that seagulls, who were attracted to the landfill as a food source, would congregate at the lagoon at the mouth of Arroyo Quemado Creek after eating, thereby polluting the beach.

Using this information, the Public Works Department began an innovative program that utilizes falcons to chase the gulls away from the landfill. The program has been extremely successful and the Arroyo Quemada Beach is now one of the cleanest beaches in California, rating an A+ from the Heal the Bay's Weekly Report Card.



Figure 8 Combined Species Matches at Ocean Sampling Site

