



April 28, 2015

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Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Attention: Jean-Pierre Wolf, Chairman; Jeffrey Young; Monica Hunter; Bruce Delgado, Michael Johnson, Karina Cervantez, Kathleen Thomasberg  
cc: Ken Harris, Executive Director  
Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board  
895 Aero Vista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

**SUBJECT: Interested Party Comment Carpinteria Sanitary District  
ACLC No. R3-2015-0011**

Dear Regional Water Quality Control Board:

Heal the Ocean has become aware of the punitive actions being proposed by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board against the Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD) via the above-referenced order. This letter addresses our concerns about the enforcement order which your Board is considering.

Coincidentally, I just took delivery this weekend from Regional Board member Jeffrey Young the magnificent framed two-page Commendation from the Regional Board, given to Heal the Ocean on January 30, 2015 during your Board meeting in Santa Barbara, to pay tribute for our role in bringing the Rincon septic-to-sewer project to fruition. This was a 15-year saga, and Heal the Ocean is most grateful, and very proud, of this Commendation! (As well as the California State Senate and Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors commendations that were also presented to us during that same ceremony.) It is wonderful for all of us - together - to experience the successful achievement of such a significant project, which could only have been accomplished by working together. It took all of us to make this happen.

In the wonderfully detailed text of that Commendation are many references to CSD's role in seeing this enormous project through to completion - which included not only the Rincon, but Sandyland, Sand Point, and Padaro Lane - seven miles of Santa Barbara County south coast beaches - 175 homes! There is no way in heaven or earth

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*HTO Founding Board/Emeritus Directors: Jeff Young (HTO Co-Founder); Sally Bromfield; Jean-Michel Cousteau\*; Stan Harfenist; Hillary Hauser\*; Joseph Liebman; Francoise Park\*; Charles Vinick; Jonathan Wygant; Jana Young (\*still active)*

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this project could have been completed without CSD "hanging in there," through insults, slings and arrows, and lawsuits. Many sanitary districts would have quit right after the first fight broke out, but CSD stayed with it, and actually took an active role to find the funds to make this project happen. CSD not only sought out a State Water Board grant for the \$425,000 needed for the EIR on the project, but successfully went after another \$2 million Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) grant to help the homeowners pay for the project.

The homeowners are so very pleased to be hooked to public sewer, and it's hardly necessary to mention that the surfers are *ecstatic*. "A septic-free Rincon!" is what many of them are saying. It no longer stinks at low tide.

This project would never have happened were it not for CSD Manager, Craig Murray, and the CSD Board of Directors staying committed to this critical water quality improvement project, probably one of Santa Barbara County's biggest environmental victories to date.

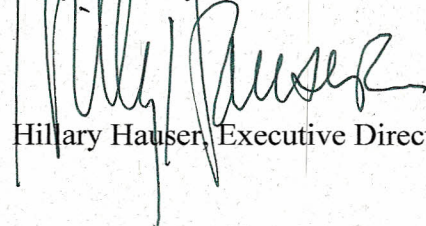
And now, CSD has received a Proposition 1 grant for a Facilities Upgrade Plan to assess the feasibility of rebuilding the plant as a recycled water facility for "gold standard" recycled water, suitable for Indirect Potable Reuse. General Manager Craig Murray has been a wonderful advisor to us as we work on positioning other wastewater/water agencies on the Santa Barbara South Coast to do the same.

In closing, CSD is an example of a public agency that is proactive and focused on protecting the ocean environment. This agency has been invaluable to us in achieving our goals of removing septic systems from improper places, and now, removing waste(d)water from the ocean as well.

We respectfully ask that the Regional Board recognize CSD's ongoing commitment to water quality protection in assessing a penalty, if one is required, that is equitable, consistent and fair. We know that CSD is spending its limited ratepayer-funded resources to directly protect our Ocean each and every day.

Thank you for considering our request.

Very sincerely,



Hillary Hausen, Executive Director