Seeking stakeholder input on Regional Board's consideration of de-designating the SHELL beneficial use in both the San Lorenzo River Estuary and the Soquel Lagoon

Regional Board staff is considering de-designating the beneficial use of shellfishing from the San Lorenzo River Estuary and the Soquel Lagoon.

Staff has found no evidence of the shellfish harvesting beneficial use in the San Lorenzo River Estuary or the Soquel Lagoon. Hydraulic modifications, seasonal lagoon closure to tidal circulation, and lack of evidence of any historical or contemporary shellfish harvesting, have led Regional Board staff to consider removing the SHELL beneficial use in San Lorenzo River Estuary and Soquel Lagoon. These would be proposed as two separate items.

> Staff feels the 1976 listing of a shellfish beneficial use for San Lorenzo River Estuary was in error. In the 1975 Basin Plan, San Lorenzo River Estuary did not have shellfishing listed as a beneficial use. In 1976, the Estuary was listed as having shellfishing as a beneficial use, with no supporting documentation or rationale. Shanta Keeling questioned staff at Region 3 as to why this change was made. Region 3 staffs' recollection was that in 1976, several waterbodies in the region were given a SHELL beneficial use, without supporting documentation, for what appeared to be administrative reasons. **Although legally, a UAA must be performed in order to remove the beneficial use of shellfishing from the San Lorenzo River Estuary, staff wants to emphasize that the initial listing of this waterbody for SHELL did not appear to be scientifically based.**
>
> Soquel Lagoon was listed as part of a larger grouping of waterbodies in the 1975 Basin Plan. Again, staff did not find documentation to point out why this waterbody was listed for the SHELL beneficial use.

Staff has questioned numerous individuals who are knowledgeable about the areas. These include, but are not limited to County and City staff, researchers, Department of Fish and Game staff, and Department of Health Services. We have tried to contact anyone who might have information on this subject matter.

We bring this subject up today to ask if anyone has any information on the presence of shellfishing in either of these waterbodies.

If you could help us out and please fill out this form.

Angela Carpenter read this at a Nov. 15, 2005 meeting in Santa Cruz. The meeting was facilitated by the County of Santa Cruz. No one in attendance filled out a form and no one had any oral comments to Angela. No phone calls or emails were received by staff after the meeting. An attendance sheet is attached.

1) Do YOU think the shellfishing beneficial use exists in either the San Lorenzo River Estuary or the Soquel Lagoon?

San Lorenzo River Estuary — YES NO

Soquel Lagoon — YES NO

If you think the shellfishing use is occurring, why do you think so? Or if not, why do you think so?

_____

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_____

2) Do you know of anyone you think Regional Board staff should contact regarding this issue (please include name and contact info)?

_____

Your contact information:
Name_____
Phone no._____
Email address_____
Affiliation_____

1) Do YOU think the shellfishing beneficial use exists in either the San Lorenzo River Estuary or the Soquel Lagoon?

San Lorenzo River Estuary — YES NO

Soquel Lagoon — YES NO

If you think the shellfishing use is occurring, why do you think so? Or if not, why do you think so?

_____

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Your contact information:
Name_____
Phone no._____
Email address_____
Affiliation_____

MEETING NOTICE

Technical Advisory Committee

ASSESSMENT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEACH POLLUTION

November 15, 2005
Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Health Services Agency Small Auditorium, Basement
Building D, 1080 Emeline Street, Santa Cruz, CA

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Review of Draft Report: Assessment of Bacterial Contamination at Santa Cruz County Beaches
   a. Findings
   b. Recommendations

3. Regional Board Efforts
   a. Pathogen TMDL Development for San Lorenzo, Capitola Lagoon, Aptos/Valencia Creeks – Use of Beach Water Quality Report for Implementation Plan
   b. Use Attainability Analysis to remove the Shellfish Harvesting Beneficial Use from San Lorenzo River Estuary and Soquel Lagoon

4. Update on Status of Related Efforts?
   a. Integrated Watershed Restoration Program: Countywide Lagoons
   b. Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program: Urban Runoff and Beach Action Plans
   c. Prop 13 Capitola Lagoon Cooperative Water Quality Assessment
   d. County Stormwater Program
   e. Clean Beach Initiative Projects: Santa Cruz and Capitola
   f. Others?

Please contact John Ricker (831-454-2750), if you have questions or comments.

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To: Shanta Keeling - RWQCB 805-788-5516

Beach Water Quality - 11/15/05

Name	Affiliation
John Rucker	S.C. Co Env Hlth
Chris Cage	City of Santa Cruz
Chris Coburn	MBNMS
Nicole Beck	2nd Nature
Russ Petersen	S.C. County Pub. Wks
Steven Jesberg	Capitola
Dan Chua	S.C. County Sanitation District
Akin Babatola	City of Santa Cruz
Angela Cargent	Ca Regional Water Quality Control Board
Patricia Matejcek	Surfrider Fdn + Sierra Club
John Alexiou	City of S.C. Marine Safety (P&R)
Steve Peters	County of Santa Cruz EHS
Monica Reid	Kestrel Consulting, Inc.
Dan Seidel	City of Santa Cruz
Kristy Morris	UCSC (Marc Los Huertos)
Suzanne Healy	City of Santa Cruz
Alyson Tom	SC County
Rachel Lather	SCCSD
Monica Reid	
Tamar Dan	Coastal Watershed Council
~~Steve Wolfman~~	~~City of SC~~
Siobhan O'Neil	City of Santa Cruz - DPW
Steve Wolfman	City of Santa Cruz
	~~UCSC - Marc Los Huertos~~

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