

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JAN 29 2008



1055 MONTEREY, ROOM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408-1003 • 805.781.5450

January 25, 2008

Jeffrey Young, Chairman
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

KHATCHIK H. "KATCHO" ACHADJIAN
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT FOUR

RE: Letter of Support for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative
Proposed Water Quality Projects, Guadalupe Settlement Funds

Dear Mr. Young:

I am writing to express my support for the package of proposed water quality improvement projects that were submitted by the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative to RWQCB staff on December 14, 2007.

The Dunes Collaborative is a unique partnership of federal, state, regional, non-profit and private entities whose mission is the conservation and restoration of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes and their associated watersheds.

The projects proposed by the Dunes Collaborative represent a wide-range of much-needed water quality improvements for watersheds associated with the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex, ranging from the Meadow Creek watershed in the north to the Santa Maria River Watershed in the south. Dozens of people ranging from land managers to watershed specialists to restoration experts were involved in reviewing and revising project submissions to ensure that only high quality and feasible projects would be submitted for funding. During this vetting process, each project was also reviewed in detail to ensure compliance with the Guadalupe Oil Settlement Fund criteria, which include:

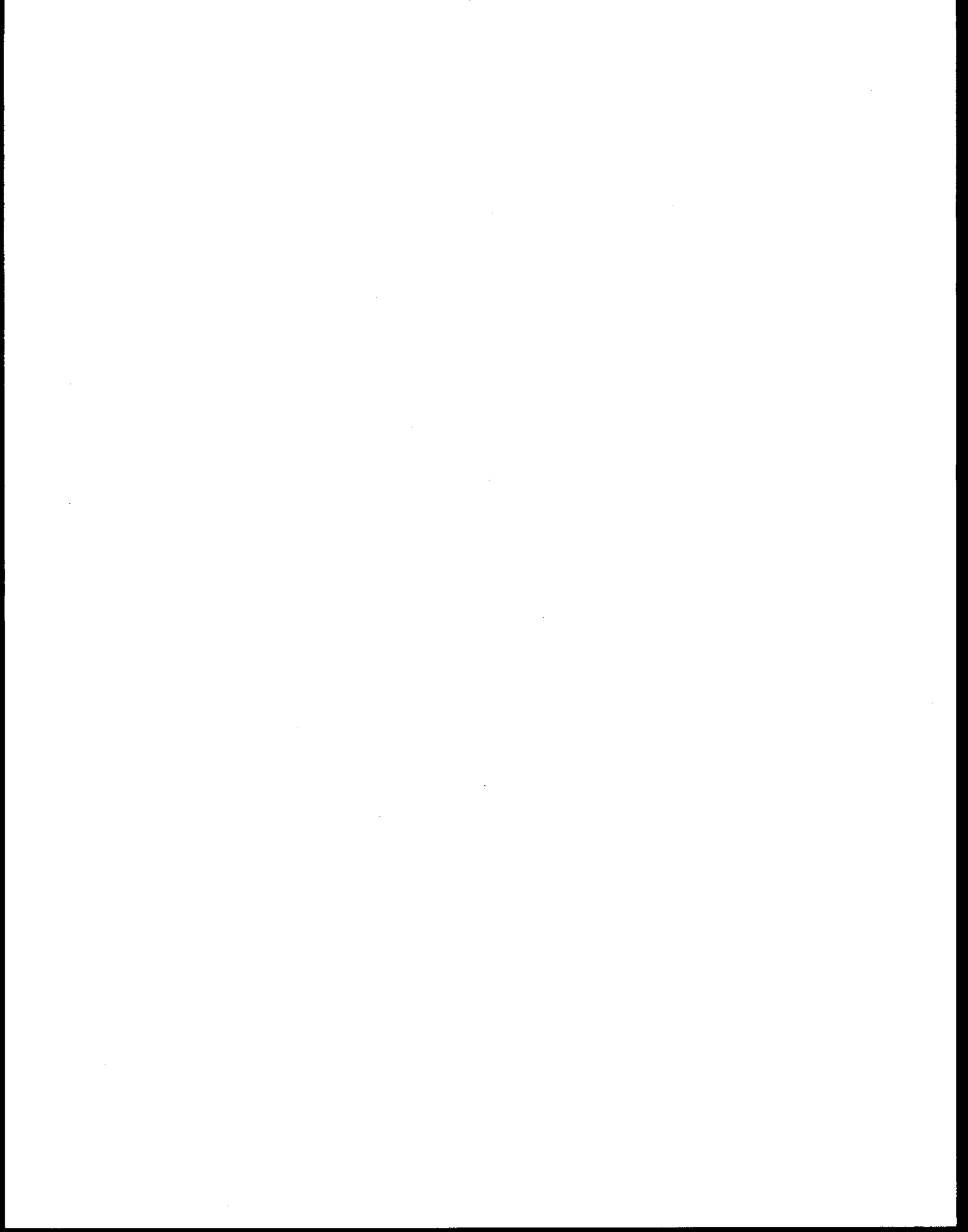
- Water Quality Focus
- Geographic Nexus
- Spill Type or Violation
- Beneficial Use Protection
- Region wide Use/Benefit
- Leveraged Funding
- Institutional Stability/Capacity

As a County Supervisor, whose district includes many of the proposed projects, I strongly urge your support of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative water quality project proposals. Please feel free to contact me at 781-4337.

Sincerely,

KHATCHIK H. "KATCHO" ACHADJIAN
Supervisor District Four

Item No. 9 Supplemental Sheet
Attachment 2
February 7-8, 2008 Meeting
Consideration of Funding Water
Quality Proposal



NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN

950 Waypoint Drive
Nipomo CA 93444
805 929 6710



January 25, 2008

Jeffrey Young, Chairman
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

JAN 29 2008

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7003

RE: Letter of Support for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative Proposed Water Quality Projects, Guadalupe Settlement Funds

Dear Mr. Young:

The Nipomo Native Garden (NNG) Board of Directors wishes to express our unanimous support for the proposed water quality improvement projects which were submitted by the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative to RWQCB staff on December 14, 2007. NNG has been involved with the Dunes Forum and subsequently the Dunes Collaborative since 1997.

The Dunes Collaborative is a unique and enduring partnership of federal, state, regional, non-profit and private entities whose mission is the conservation and restoration of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex and their associated watersheds for ecosystem enhancement and public benefit.

The projects proposed by the Dunes Collaborative represent a broad range of much needed water quality improvements for watersheds associated with the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex, ranging from the Meadow Creek watershed in the north to the Santa Maria River Watershed in the south. Many stake-holders including land managers, watershed specialists and restoration experts were involved in reviewing, revising and prioritizing project submissions to ensure that only the most feasible, implementation-ready and best 'bang-for-the-buck' projects would be submitted for funding. During this selection process, each project was also reviewed in detail to ensure compliance with the Guadalupe Oil Settlement Fund criteria, which includes:

- Water Quality Focus
- Geographic Nexus
- Spill Type or Violation
- Beneficial Use Protection
- Region Wide Use/Benefit
- Leveraged Funding
- Institutional Stability/Capacity

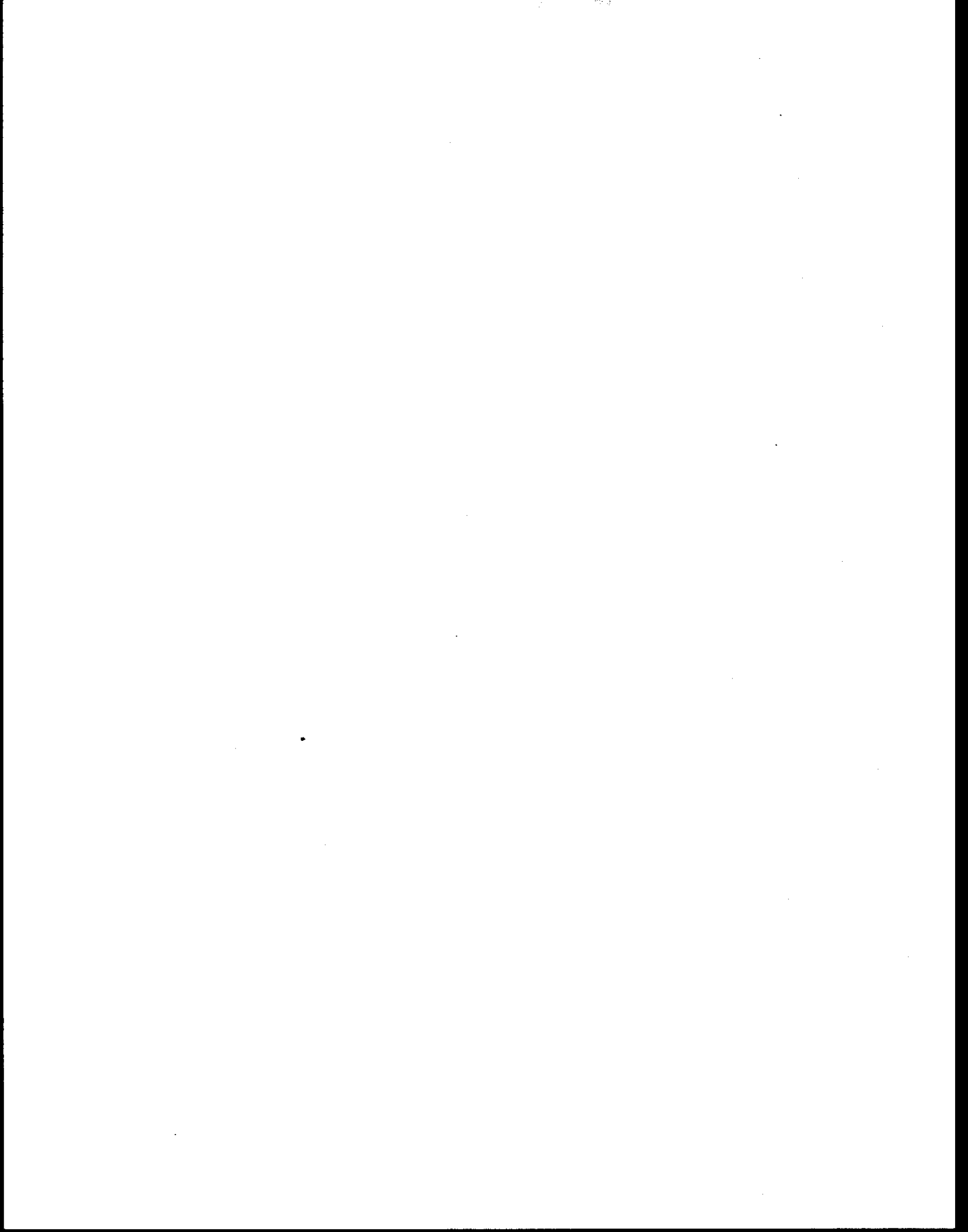
Nipomo Native Garden urges your support of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative water quality project proposals. Their nexus meets the intent of the Guadalupe Settlement Fund Project and will contribute significant progress in improving the water quality and beneficial uses throughout the Dunes complex.

For additional information or any questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 929-6710 or LVorchid50@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Larry Vierheilig'.

Larry Vierheilig, President
Nipomo Native Garden
P.O. Box 2477
Nipomo, CA 93444





Division of Science & Environmental Policy California State University Monterey Bay

100 Campus Center, Seaside CA 93955-8001
Phone: (831) 582-4110 FAX: (831) 582-4122

January 25th, 2008

Chair, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dear Sir,

I understand that the Board will shortly be considering allocation of the Guadalupe settlement funds.

I urge you to give your strongest consideration to allocating these funds toward the CCAMP monitoring program.

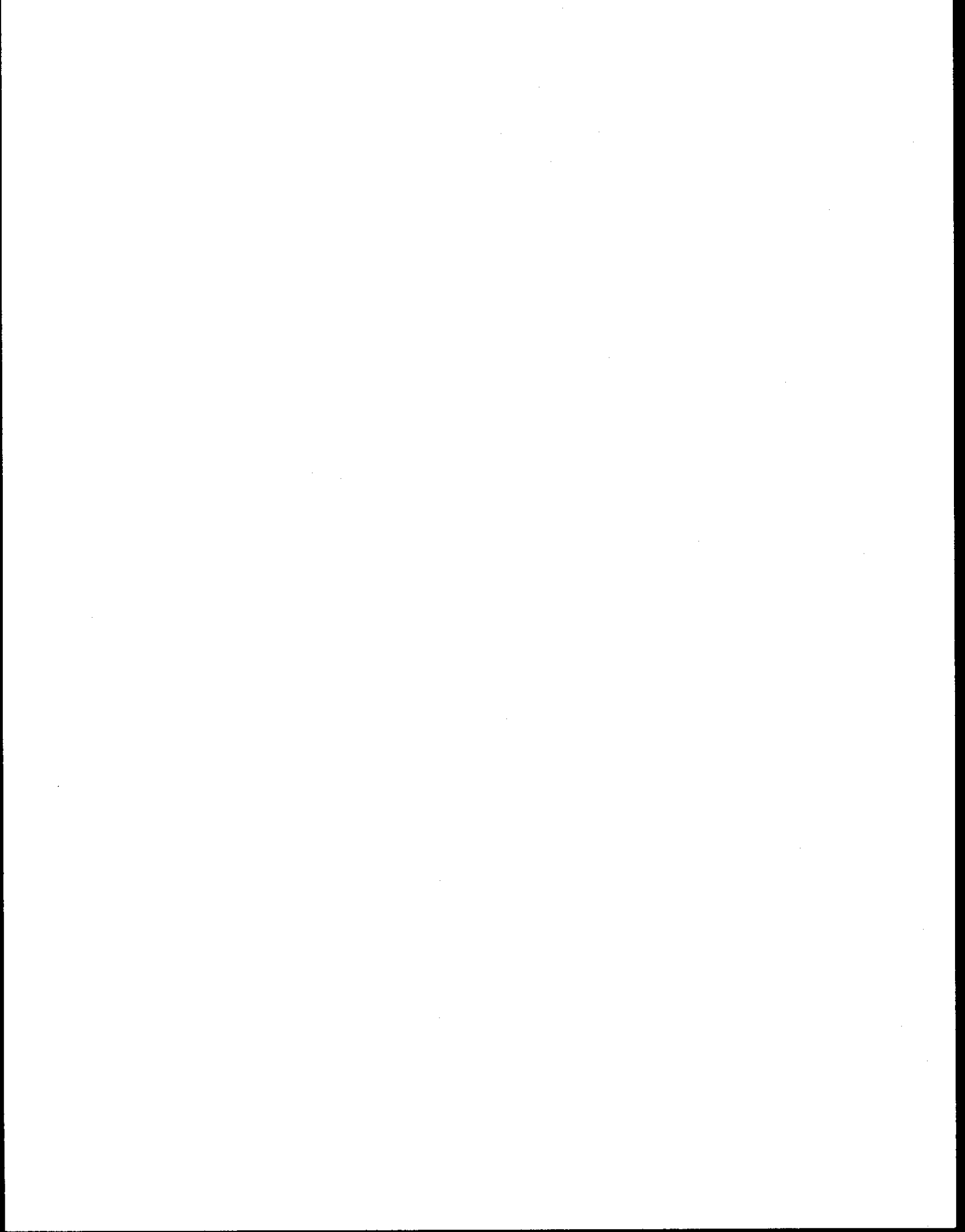
Since 2000 I have lead a university research team that has conducted contract research and monitoring of the myriad non-point source water quality problems of the Central Coast, often under contract to SWRCB. We have frequently used CCAMP data in this capacity, to define and track water quality problems in relation to nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, and suspended sediment. These analyses are documented in a series of about 30 web-published reports that have formed part of the basis for TMDLs, the Ag Waiver monitoring plan, and 303d listings. In coming years we as a community will need to be able to track progress by comparing future CCAMP data with historical CCAMP data.

The Board has entrusted stakeholders with much of the responsibility for cleaning up our water. It is essential that we are able to measure whether or not the cleanup is working. The only way to do this is with a long-term public monitoring program. CCAMP is ideally suited for this purpose, and is the only current program capable of effectively and transparently addressing our critical long-term monitoring needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Watson".

Co-Director, The Watershed Institute
Assistant Professor, Science & Environmental Policy
(831) 582-4452, fred_watson@csumb.edu



3098 Stewart Court
Marina, CA 93933
831.883.4159
exec@montereycoastkeeper.org



MONTEREY
COASTKEEPER®
www.montereycoastkeeper.org

Mr. Jeffrey Young, Chair
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista, Ste. 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

January 26, 2008

Via fax

Re: Agenda Item 9, Regular Meeting of February 7-8, 2008
Support - CCAMP and LID Center

Dear Chair Young and Water Board Members,

We will keep this letter short and to the point:

CCAMP monitoring is essential to all efforts on the Central Coast to improve water quality. No data set is more comprehensive or of higher quality. Yet CCAMP is in danger: variations in budget have made it difficult to collect and analyze critical data. Budget stability is essential to any long term monitoring program. Adding to CCAMP's endowment will provide this essential program with greater stability. Please, approve adding AT LEAST \$4.65 million to the CCAMP endowment.

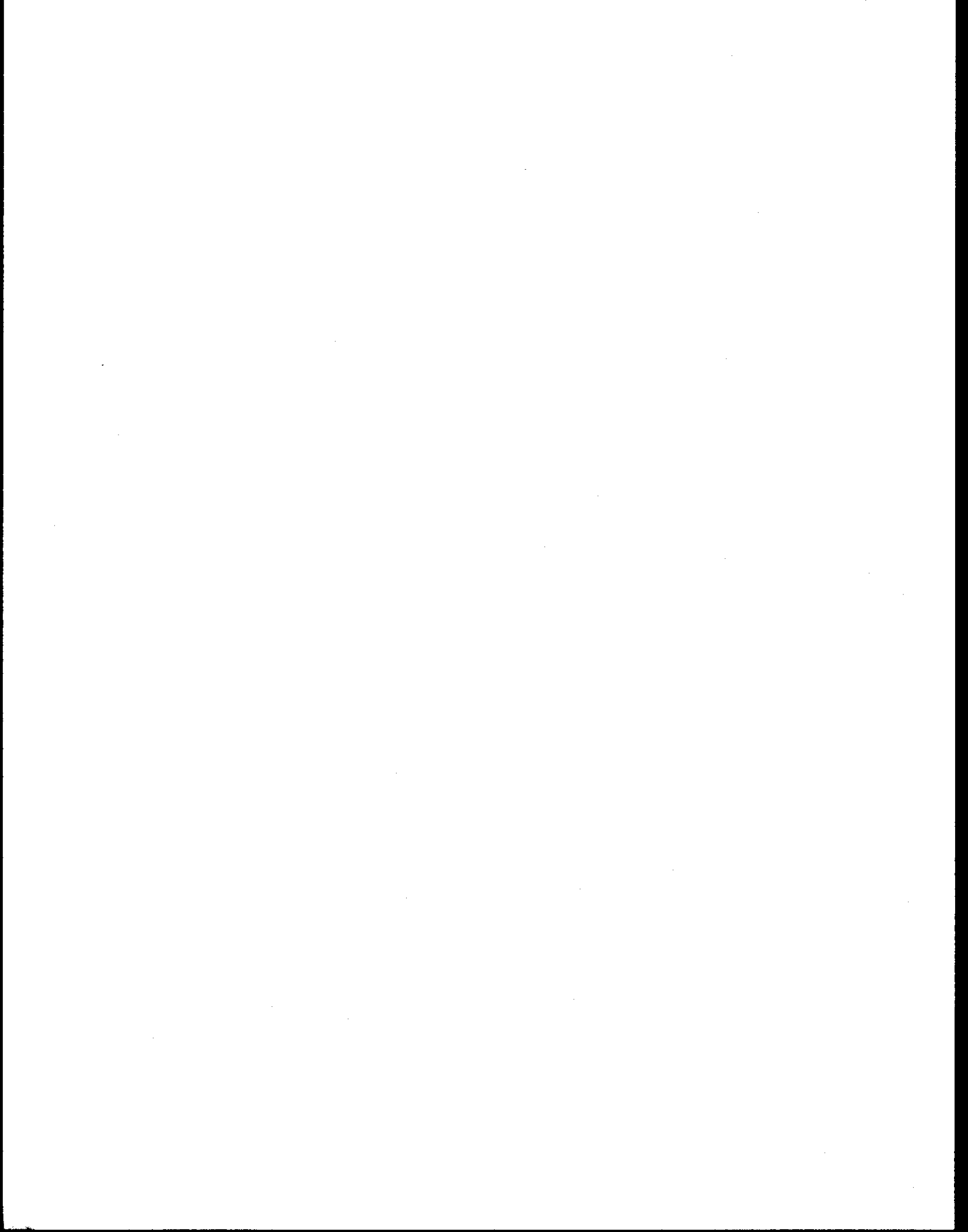
Restoring groundwater and biologically treating polluted runoff are key to maintaining our water quality. There are tremendous pressures on the Central Coast to 'grow.' Sustainable growth will be very difficult - perhaps impossible -- but it is simply obvious that LID strategies will reduce the impacts of increased urbanization. Monterey Coastkeeper has only been in existence less than a year, yet we have spent much of our time studying and learning to apply LID principals. One lesson we have learned is that there is resistance to change - both from municipalities and developers. And, we have learned there are resources 'interested' in LID; RWQCB leadership and 'seed money' could attract further investment. As a second priority to CCAMP, we support investment in LID.

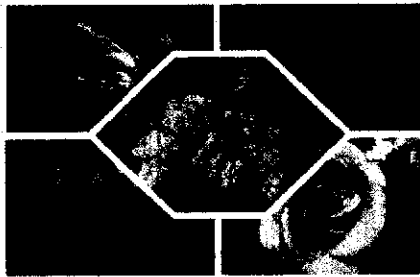
Sincerely,

Steve Shimek
Monterey Coastkeeper



WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE
MEMBER





***Southern San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
Agricultural Watershed Coalition***

P.O. Box 1440

Santa Maria, California, 93456

(805) 928 - 4950 PHONE (877) 928 - 4950 TOLL FREE (805) 928 - 2201 FAX

www.ccwga.org

ccwga.mail@gte.net

January 27, 2008

Jeffery S. Young, Chairman
Central Coast Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, 93401

Chairman Young :

The Southern San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Watershed Coalition has proactively been working on improving water quality on agricultural lands since 2003. The Coalition through its watershed coordinator, Kay Mercer, has been instrumental in the success of the conditional waiver for agriculture here in Region 3. Ms. Mercer as coordinator has also been successful in bridging the gap between agriculturalists, the environmental community, and regulators which includes maintaining an excellent rapport with Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff.

The Watershed Coalition has funded the coordinators position primarily through a grant from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board which is derived from the Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement Water Quality Projects Trust. This grant is due to expire at the end of 2008.

I have included an executive summary for your review, focusing on the Santa Maria river watershed as an example of the work our Coalition believes is important as we enter the next phase of conditional Ag waivers along with the TMDL timeline for this important agricultural area.

Our Watershed coalition respectfully asks your Board to consider funding our Coordinator position again after our contract expires in 2008. We have built a solid trust between the Agricultural community and our watershed coordinator, Kay Mercer over the last four years. It is imperative to maintain this program, so that together we can improve water quality over time.

I look forward to addressing the Board at the February 7th meeting in San Luis Obispo to briefly summarize what the Coalition has accomplished and answer any questions Board members may have.

Sincerely,

Kevin Merrill, President

Southern San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Watershed Coalition

A. Executive Summary

This proposal is to continue funding a watershed coordinator for the Santa Barbara County and Southern San Luis Obispo County Watershed Coalition. The Southern San Luis Obispo (SLO) and Santa Barbara County Watershed Coalition (AWC) facilitates coordination between regulatory agencies, technical service providers and key stakeholders in the community, assists growers with Conditional Ag Waiver and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulatory compliance issues, and provides education and outreach. Local watershed goals include addressing the Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Watersheds identified as impaired by pathogens, nitrates, ammonia and pesticides. Additional priority goals include addressing diverse land uses that impact water quality, water management and water supply in this watershed region such as grazing, endangered species protection and vegetable food safety and pesticide management issues. To this end, the Coordinator will facilitate Watershed planning through the formation of an agricultural Watershed Working Group to move the group beyond strategic planning and into implementation which will effectuate positive change in the watershed. The Coordinator will enhance collaboration between agricultural and other diverse stakeholders by coordinating activities which will address a multitude of historical, land-use, agricultural and ecosystem issues related to the Santa Maria Watershed. The Coordinator will facilitate efforts to increase water use efficiencies in the Santa Maria Watershed by promoting nutrient and irrigation efficiency training for Spanish speaking growers in the Santa Maria Valley and also will work with the Central Coast Water Quality Preservation (CCWQP) and the Central Coast Regional Water Board (RWQCB) on ambient monitoring and source characterization programs to better understand water quality issues.

B. Watershed Location

- Santa Maria
- HUC # 18060008
- Santa Barbara County

The San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Agricultural Watershed Coalition (AWC) was formed in 2003 by five agricultural associations:

the Central Coast Wine Growers Association (CCWGA); Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association (GSVA); Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau; Flower and Greenhouse Growers Association of Santa Barbara County and Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association. The AWC was formed and is managed by the Central Coast Wine Growers Association Foundation (CCWGAF). This proposed Watershed Coordinator Grant Project will be administered by the CCWGAF and implemented by the AWC. A Watershed map is enclosed and above.



C. Current Watershed Conditions/Potential Benefit to the Watershed

The Santa Maria Watershed is comprised of three rivers: Cuyama, Sisquoc, and the Santa Maria (which is formed by the confluence of the other two rivers). For the purposes of this proposal, Watershed Coordinator activities will be limited to the ten miles of the Cuyama River downstream from Twitchell Dam, and the Sisquoc and the Santa Maria Rivers. The Santa Maria River is in the California Water Project Solution area. State Water is blended with existing

waters to avoid groundwater basin overdraft, to improve existing water quality and to increase overall water supply. (Santa Barbara Water Resources Report, July, 2000).

Land use in the Sisquoc River watershed is composed primarily of National Forest, rangeland, and irrigated agriculture. The Cuyama and Santa Maria Rivers sit in an alluvial plain which supports about 42,000 acres of irrigated high-value crops. Private groundwater wells are the principal source of irrigation water. The Cities of Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Nipomo and Orcutt are located in the watershed. At the mouth of the Santa Maria River is the Guadalupe Dunes, a unique and fragile ecosystem that is home to endangered and threatened species. The presence of sensitive species as well as river channel alterations, water quality impairments, habitat loss, and other detrimental affects of human impact are documented in the Santa Maria Estuary Plan. (Prepared for Dunes Center, State Coastal Conservancy and RWQCB in 2004) *A watershed Coordinator will facilitate collaboration on watershed improvement projects to build broad-based consensus among stakeholders and to obtain project funding appropriate to strategic planning.*

Surface and groundwater quality in Santa Barbara County in the lower reaches of the Santa Maria River are considered impaired as documented via multiple lines of evidence (Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP), UCD, 2002 and 2004) and are on the EPA 303(d) list for fecal coliform, nitrate, ammonia and pesticide impairments swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/303dlists2006/final/r3_final303dlist.pdf. The Central Coast RWQCB adopted the Conditional Ag Waiver for Irrigated Land in 2004 swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/AGWaivers/Index.htm and has scheduled implementation of three TMDL programs in the Santa Maria River swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/303dandTMDLprojects.htm. *A Coordinator will help connect regulatory programs with ambient water quality monitoring programs for management practice (MP) implementation.*

Many shallow groundwater aquifers throughout the Santa Maria Valley are contaminated with nitrates. Santa Maria Valley groundwater rights and management were recently formalized through an acrimonious adjudication that will have a residual effect on the ability of stakeholders to resolve water quality issues in this watershed. Hence, *a Watershed Coordinator is necessary to facilitate future collaboration between contentious and distrustful stakeholders.*

The critical role of the AWC Coordinator is to facilitate, support and direct the watershed-related goals and activities of this region. **The watershed related goals of the AWC are:**

- *Organizational:* 1) Assist agricultural community in meeting deadlines of the Conditional Ag Waiver, 2) Coordinate ambient monitoring and source characterization programs on the Santa Maria River, and 3) facilitate the TMDL process.
- *Financial:* Secure grant funding for the CMP and other projects that benefit local growers.
- *Educational* 1) Facilitate and track implementation of Farm Water Quality Management Practices (MPs), 2) Provide education and outreach on the Conditional Ag Waiver, Farm Water Quality MPs such as the use of cover crops to manage sediment movement, nitrate management; irrigation efficiency and pesticide mitigation.
- *Institutional:* Reduce institutional barriers (i.e. multi-agency permitting requirements, Endangered Species Act restrictions and concerns regarding Food Safety) that prevent growers from implementing Farm Water Quality Management Practices.

The objectives of the watershed coordinator in meeting these goals are listed below.

1. *Coordinate between agriculture industry and key stakeholders.* The watershed Coordinator will foster stakeholder relations necessary to successfully implement holistic watershed goals by building a common basis of understanding among disparate groups.
2. *Assist individual growers with the Conditional Waiver compliance.* The Coordinator will facilitate compliance by assuring that growers have accurate information. The Watershed Working Group will coordinate the implementation, documentation and measurement of watershed levels.
3. *Provide grower education and outreach on water quality, best management practices and environmental and habitat issues.* The watershed Coordinator will facilitate transfer of regulatory, technical and environmental information for growers and key stakeholders.

Benefits of the Watershed Coordinator Project to the Santa Maria Watershed include:

1. Development of a Santa Maria River Watershed Working Group and strategic plan,
2. Cooperation between the Watershed Working Group and six other key non-agricultural stakeholders in the watershed,
3. Participation of the Watershed Working Group in the TMDL process,
4. Coordinated monitoring activities and outreach in the Santa Maria River Watershed,
5. Provision of technical information on MPs and the validity of RWQCB Management Practice Checklist Database,
6. Prioritization of future collaborative projects and partnerships,
7. Procurement of grant funding secured to support project implementation,
8. Education of other stakeholders on ag issues unique to the Santa Maria Watershed,
9. Technical transfer of innovative technologies mitigating and preventing the impacts of pesticide or fertilizer impacts to the Santa Maria watershed, and
10. Nutrient and irrigation efficiency training for Spanish speaking growers in the Santa Maria River Watershed.

D. Work Plan Discussion

Watershed Goal - Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River

Objective #1-*Facilitate the development of an agricultural Watershed Working Group as the forum for establishing watershed management goals, practices and implementation strategies that are supported by the stakeholders in the Santa Maria River Watershed.*

Performance Measure: *Establishment of regularly meeting stakeholder-based watershed groups for the Santa Maria River Watershed. One (1) dynamic agricultural watershed-based strategy developed for data analysis and implementation-based activities for the Santa Maria River Watershed, by March 2009. Amend the Santa Maria Estuary plan for agricultural use.*

After three year of planning, the AWC solidified an agreement with Santa Maria Valley growers to form a Watershed Working Group in late 2007. This proposal will fund a Watershed Coordinator to facilitate the Working Group to collectively address water quality issues related to agricultural production and to better understand water-related challenges and priorities.

The Coordinator will facilitate a forum to: 1) present and explain existing water quality data within the context of the watershed, 2) present TMDL program information on fecal coliform, nitrate/ammonia and pesticide, and 3) present new technologies and traditional water quality

management practices. The group will prioritize implementation projects and identify funding requirements. In order to better coordinate the efforts of the watershed working group, the Coordinator will attend the University of California at Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Sciences Watershed Working Group Training Program in 2008. The Santa Maria Estuary Plan was finalized in 2005; the Coordinator will facilitate the review of this Plan for agriculture adoption. As a result, growers will be better prepared to effectuate change.

Watershed Goal: Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #2: *Facilitate key initiatives identified in the agricultural watershed-based strategy created by the newly formed Santa Maria Agricultural Watershed Working Group.*

Performance Measurement: *Thirty percent (30%) of growers from the Watershed Working Group respond to the three TMDL processes; 10 key growers are involved with CCWQP source characterization projects. At least 50% of the acres in the watershed adopt additional source control management practices to improve irrigation, nutrient and pesticide use efficiencies.*

It will be the Coordinator's role to move the Watershed Working Group towards implementation of the watershed strategy to prioritize future projects, to identify collaborative funding opportunities for the Santa Maria Watershed and to avert future legal action between agricultural and non-agricultural interests. Regardless of other project priorities, the watershed strategy must, at the very least focus on: 1) 2009 Conditional Ag Waiver renewal, 2) TMDL implementation 3) coordination of ambient monitoring programs and 4) adoption of management practices by individual growers. The Working Group will ensure that projects economically viable solutions. Finally, the Watershed Coordinator will coordinate resources necessary to pursue and procure funding from local, government and private sources.

Watershed Goal: Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #3: *Facilitate watershed-based collaboration through a Land to Sea Tour of the Santa Maria River Watershed that will include a diverse group: agriculturalists, environmental community, local policy makers and regulatory agency personnel.*

Performance Measurement: *Forty (40) people participate in a Land to Sea Tour composed of a variety of stakeholders. Participants increase knowledge, acquire information and identify one or more common water quality and ecosystem management opportunities in the Santa Maria River Watershed.*

The coordinator will facilitate collaborative activities to support the discussion of agricultural management practices and the health of the Santa Maria River Estuary. The tour will encompass historical land uses, current land use challenges, pertinent agricultural management practices and challenge; environmental concerns (sediment loading and endangered species protection). Speakers representing the agricultural community, the RWQCB, CCWQP, Santa Barbara County Flood Control, Central Coast Water Authority, CA Parks and Recreation, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of California Cooperative Extension and one or more Universities of California will explore collaborative ideas to benefit water quality or ecosystem management in the Santa Maria River Watershed.

The AWC has a successful track record with Land-to-Sea Tours. In 2007, the AWC organized a tour in the Carpinteria Valley that received extremely high evaluations and resulted in future action items. The Watershed Coordinator will build on this successful model to focus on issues unique and pertinent to water quality discussions in the Santa Maria Watershed such as fire

control through grazing, the conflict between water quality protection and food safety requirements, flood control, urban/agricultural contributions to pesticide water and sediment toxicity, the surface water to groundwater interface and habitat restoration; endangered species protections in the lower part of the river. Education for non-agriculture stakeholders will focus on issues of farming high-value produce in the Santa Maria Valley.

Watershed Goal: Improve Water Quality in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #4: *Facilitate the evaluation of new organo phosphate pesticide mitigation technologies (e.g. Landguard) and new phosphate fertilizer technologies for the Central Coast vegetable irrigation systems.*

Performance Measurement: *Demonstrated reductions of organo phosphate pesticide (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion and dimethoate) discharges by 80% in demonstration plots in the Santa Maria River Watershed and 20% reductions of phosphate fertilizer applications within two and a-half years in fertilizer test plots.*

The Coordinator will work with Landguard (a naturally occurring enzyme that breaks down organo phosphate pesticides in tailwater systems), Dow Agrosiences (the manufacturer of Chlorpyrifos), Orica (a local dealer) and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo to test a prototype for the unique irrigation systems found on the Central Coast. The Coordinator will work with Orica to coordinate a field day to demonstrate this new mitigation technique. On a similar note, in 2008, phosphate fertilizers will be reformulated by three different manufacturers to increase bioavailability and decrease the gross amount of fertilizer required. The watershed Coordinator will bring together researchers, private industry and growers to evaluate and demonstrate the water quality benefits of these novel technologies.

Watershed Goal: Improve water use efficiency in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #5: *Facilitate training for Spanish-speaking growers and other watershed stakeholders about effective nutrient and irrigation management practices to improve water quality, water quantity, and soil conditions of the Santa Maria watershed region.*

Performance Measurement: *Demonstrated improved irrigation and storm water discharges from strawberry production in sandy loam soils on the Orcutt Solomon Creek tributary to the Santa Maria River. At least 30 Spanish-speaking growers in the Santa Maria Watershed will demonstrate a decrease of 15% in Nitrogen fertilizer efficiencies and an increase in irrigation water efficiencies of 10%.*

The Coordinator will coordinate the provision of nutrient and irrigation management training for Spanish speaking growers through CDFA's Fertilizer, Research and Education Program. Of the total number of growers (1000) in the Santa Maria watershed, it is estimated that 30% (300) are Spanish speaking. There are three groups of Spanish speaking growers. Some sublease marginal lands from large strawberry cooler/packers and need to be trained on the rudiments of nutrient and irrigation management. Small to medium size growers that lease or own land for their own operations and who sell through farmers markets. These growers are generally more knowledgeable and want fertilizer information to meet production goals. Spanish speaking managers employed by large vegetable or strawberry farmers are in a position to make changes but are often isolated and cannot attend information seminars. Training of these growers will make large scale comparisons of traditional farming versus water quality protection practices. It is critical to note that these growers tend to concentrate in marginal, sandy soils which overlie

drinking water aquifers. Water and nutrient efficiencies must be improved in order to protect long-term safe drinking water for the City of Santa Maria.

Sustainability of Coordinator Position

The AWC Coordinator position is funded primarily through a grant from the RWQCB which is derived from the Guadalupe Settlement Fund. The RWQCB has large discretion in how this environmental mitigation fund is disbursed and also has a vested interest in the continued success of the AWC funding for five years at \$658,102.93. The grant could be renewed in late 2008. To date, the AWC has garnered 30% match from in-kind services, donations, grants, and sub-contracts and is committed to increase this match to 40% by November 30, 2008. The AWC routinely teams and proposes on a variety of grants in order to improve its financial portfolio and to solidify its sustainability. Many entities have invested resources to the AWC program and are committed to its continued success.

E. Support for Established Watershed Goals

The Central Coast RWQCB Basin Plan has established *Water Quality Objectives* for Ocean Waters, inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries, municipal/ domestic water supply, agricultural supply, water recreation, freshwater habitat, fish spawning, marine habitat and groundwater. Adoption of the Conditional Ag Waiver for Irrigated Lands ensures that water quality standards are consistent with the Basin Plan. Presently, the Santa Maria River exceeds established drinking water and some aquatic habitat standards for dissolved Oxygen, pH, nitrate, ammonia, organo chlorine, organo phosphate, and possibly, pyrethroid pesticides. *Regional watershed goals* are refined by Santa Barbara County in their Integrated Regional Water Quality Management Plan to improve surface and ocean water quality and protect and restore and enhance ecological processes through water quality improvements. *Santa Maria Estuary goals* are geared to improve water quality, enhance physical and ecological processes, improve habitat quality and quantity, identify feasible management actions, and identify regulatory and permitting challenges for project implementation. Water quality impairments will be addressed by the Coordinator who will facilitate the TMDL process, the adoption of additional management practices and the creation of a forum to discuss ecosystem improvements and projects to help meet multiple land use requirements and create successful collaboration.

F. Partnering

The participation of the agricultural community is necessary to actualize change. Visionary persons from CCVT, CCWGA and GSVA are fundamental in the discussion of water quality. Without their endorsement, change would be questionable. The Coordinator will provide a bridge. To avoid possible confusion and competition, the policy is that AWC is *not* a technical service providing agency; but instead, relies on NRCS, Cachuma RCD, Coastal and San Luis RCD to approach field challenges with technical solutions. The Coordinator taps these resources for technical assistance, in educational venues and to assist with removal of institutional barriers to MP implementation. NRCS and the RCDs will be essential for on-farm habitat restoration project permit coordination. The Coordinator has a special working relationship with UCCE because their staffs provide fresh approaches to challenges. No discussion of water quality is complete without examining monitoring data. The AWC was heavily involved with formation and organization of the CMP as it recognized the importance of tracking water quality

improvement through reliable and defensible data. Herein, the Watershed Coordinator will work closely with CCWQP on more in-depth source characterization and grower outreach. Santa Barbara County Water Agency will provide additional contributions regarding water supply and hydro geological conditions in the Santa Maria area. Two new stakeholders with whom the Coordinator will collaborate are the agricultural private industry and the environmental community. Corporations such as Orica are where new technologies originate. It is through a balanced approach of new ideas and traditional solutions that real change will occur. The pivot point for the Santa Maria River Watershed environmental community is the Dunes Center and Salmon Enhancement is on their board and provides the connection necessary to improve relations. It is our hope to continue the collaborations necessary to effectuate water quality improvement, better flood control, increased water use efficiencies, and enhanced environmental habitat restoration.

G. Cooperation

- *Co-sponsored the Co-Management of Water Quality and Food Safety Academic Conference (07) with UCCE and broad-based consortium to prioritize research priorities.*
- *Co-sponsored a survey of regional growers re: effects of water quality education (07) with UCCE, Cachuma RCD, and Strawberry Commission*
- *Participated in IRWMP planning process with Santa Barbara County and 19 municipal and special district agencies.*
- *Collaborating with two Counties Cattlemen's Association, California Cattlemen's Association and RWQCB re: possibility of a regional regulatory policy on grazing land; resource sharing with California Federation of Farm Bureaus, UCCE, Central Coast Water Agencies, Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Central Coast Vineyard Team and Cal Poly State University*
- *Coordinating with CA Department of Pesticide Regulation, and Agricultural Commissioners re: the Red Legged Frog Stipulated Injunction and pesticide application*
- *Promoting cooperating with CA Parks and Recreation, Land/Coastal Conservancies, Cachuma RCD, Coast San Luis RCD, RWQCB, Guadalupe Dunes, Santa Maria Estuary on habitat restoration and protection projects.*

Work Plan Form

Applicant: Central Coast Wine Growers Association Foundation/Santa Barbara, SLO Ag Watershed Coalition

Watershed Name: Santa Maria River Watershed, HUC #18060008

Watershed Goal: Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #1: Facilitate the development of an agricultural Watershed Working Group in the Santa Maria River Watershed to serve as the forum for establishing watershed management goals, practices and implementation strategies that are supported by the stakeholders.

Performance Measurement: Establishment of a regularly meeting stakeholder-based watershed group in the Santa Maria River Watershed. Create one (1) dynamic agricultural watershed-based strategy developed for data analysis and implementation-based activities for the Santa Maria River Watershed, by March 2009. Amend Santa Maria Estuary Plan for agricultural use.

Task Number	Description of Task	Task Completion	Implementation Schedule
1.1	Organize with growers and associated commodity groups to form a watershed based working group which will interact with other stakeholders, will gather watershed based information, will better participate in regulatory programs and will craft a watershed-based strategic plan.	Involve a minimum of 50% of irrigated acres in the Santa Maria Valley represented at 12 formal watershed working group meetings.	2008 2009 2010
1.1.1	Schedule at least six non-agricultural stakeholder (e.g. the Dunes Center, Dunes Collaborative, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, Santa Barbara County Flood Control, RWQCB TMDL staff, City of Santa Maria, Sustainable Conservation, California Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and/or US Fish and Wildlife Service) to make presentations at watershed working group meeting in order to educate growers about concerns, challenges and priorities of these non-ag stakeholders.	At least six presentations.	April 2008-through June 2009
1.1.2	Invite the Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc Technical Program Manager and the Central Coast Ambient Water Monitoring Program Manager to educate growers on water quality monitoring data and provide interpretation of the results from their respective programs.	Two Presentations at two separate meetings	April 2008-through June 2009
1.1.3	Watershed Coordinator to assist the Watershed Working Group in reviewing the Santa Maria Estuary Plan as to feasibility for adoption by agriculture. Amend The Santa Maria Estuary Plan for use by agriculture, as appropriate.	Discussed at six Watershed Working Group meetings.	April 2008-through June 2009

1.1.4	<p>Invite RWQCB TMDL staff to make presentation regarding each of the three TMDLs scheduled for the Santa Maria River in order to better educate growers on RWQCB expectations and TMDL process</p>	<p>RWQCB presentations will be agendized at three Watershed Working Group meetings.</p>	<p>April 2008-through June 2009</p>
1.2	<p>Form topical committees (e.g. TMDL, water monitoring, technical, endangered species, and/or habitat restoration) to address different components of the agricultural watershed strategy. Committee structures will improve the efficiency with which voluminous information is processed.</p>	<p>Create a minimum of three committees and have a minimum of three meetings per committee per year.</p>	<p>2008 2009 2010</p>
1.3	<p>Formalize a venue for technical transfer of innovative technologies or other source control management practices in order to better educate growers on available management practice technologies.</p>	<p>Six presentations. Have one 30 minute presentation per Watershed Working Group meeting</p>	<p>April 2008-through March 2009</p>
1.4	<p>Coordinator to attend the UCSB Watershed Planning Training Program or other similar training seminar in order to improve facilitation and coordination of watershed working group</p>	<p>Letter of Certificate of Completion from UCSB</p>	<p>2008</p>

Applicant: Central Coast Wine Growers Association Foundation

Watershed Name: Santa Maria River Watershed, HUC #18060008

Watershed Goal: Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #2: Facilitate key initiatives (TMDL, ambient monitoring and renewal of the Conditional Ag Waiver and management practices) identified in the agricultural watershed-based strategy created by the newly formed Santa Maria Agricultural Watershed Working Group. Performance Measurement: Thirty percent of the growers from the Watershed Working Group are responding to the three TMDL processes, and 10 key growers are involved with CCWOP source characterization projects, and at least 50% of the acres in the watershed adopting additional source control management practices to improve irrigation, nutrient and pesticide use efficiencies.

2.1	Write grants to secure funding based on grower defined Watershed –based Strategy	One grant per year to federal, state or local agencies or private endowments.	2009 2010
2.2	Facilitate grower participation in the TMDL process through comment submission, public meeting participation and data collection and analysis.	Schedule TMDL related topic or activity per meeting at each watershed working group meeting.	2008 2009 2010
2.2.1	Write a Request For Proposal for technical consultant to review RWQCB generated project descriptions, implementation plans and/or source allocations for TMDL program.	One RFP	2009
2.2.2	Watershed Coordinator to attend Santa Maria River/Oso Flaco Watersheds TMDL Public Hearings	Attend a minimum of 2 meetings per year	2008 2009 2010
2.2.3	Utilize the watershed working group to provide broad grower based response to RWQCB request for comments for TMDL project plans, project descriptions, implementation plans and source allocations.	Comment on a minimum of two documents per year.	2008 2009 2010
2.2.4	Watershed Coordinator to research legacy pesticide toxicology and environmental science through government (e.g. USDA) and private industry (e.g. Shell) archives	One report will be provided to the appropriate committee (and/or consultant) archival research	January 2008 - December 2009
2.2.5	Watershed Coordinator to Facilitate between agriculture and other non-agricultural stakeholders during TMDL process in order to ensure that parties are all communicating and misunderstandings are avoided.	Have 2 meetings per year between ag and non-ag stakeholders in addition to public meetings scheduled by RWQCB.	2008 2009 2010

2.3	Work with Central Coast Water Quality Preservation (CCWQP) to implement 2008 Cooperative Monitoring Program followup source characterization projects (Note: the 2009 Waiver may not have the same monitoring followup requirements as exist in the current Waiver)	15 Growers to participate	January 2008 - June 09
2.3.1	Work with watershed working group growers and CCWQP on implementation of the CMP Continuous Flow monitoring project	3 Growers to participate	January 2008-June 09
2.3.2	Work with watershed working group growers and CCWQP on implementation of the Upstream Monitoring project	5 growers	January 2008-June 09
2.3.3	Work with watershed working group growers and CCWQP on implementation of the On-farm Outreach projects	7 growers	January 2008-June 09
2.3.4	Utilize results from CMP followup projects to better define the types of management practices which would be most efficacious for water quality improvements in this watershed.	Three followup project reports from CCWQP and one watershed working group analysis.	2009
2.3.5	Share the watershed working group analysis of the CMP source characterization followup projects with non-ag stakeholders in Santa Maria Watershed in order to explore potential collaborative efforts	One presentation at joint meeting between ag and non-ag stakeholders	2009-2010
2.4	Work with UCCE to conduct a survey of water quality management practice adoption. This survey will verify the RWQCB region-wide Management Practice Checklist Database in the Santa Maria River and dovetail with a previous survey that connected watershed quality education with management practice adoption.	Conduct one survey and publish results on Web-site.	January 2008- June 2009
2.4	Watershed Working group will work with technical service providers and private industry to determine which pesticide, irrigation and nutrient source control technologies are best suited for adoption in this watershed	Have one technical transfer presentation per watershed working group meetings.	2009 2010
2.5	Watershed Working Group to appoint one grower to participate in the Conditional Ag Waiver renewal panel,	Reports to Watershed Working Group	2008-09

Applicant: Central Coast Wine Growers Association Foundation

Watershed Name: Santa Maria River Watershed, HUC #18060008

Watershed Goal: Improve Watershed Management in the Santa Maria River Watershed

Objective #3: Facilitate watershed-based collaboration through a Land to Sea Tour of the Santa Maria River Watershed that will include a diverse group: agriculturalists, the environmental community, local policy makers and regulatory agency personnel.

Performance Measurement: Forty (40) people participate in a Land to Sea Tour composed of a variety of stakeholders. Participants increase knowledge, acquire information and identify one or more common water quality and ecosystem management opportunities in the Santa Maria River Watershed.

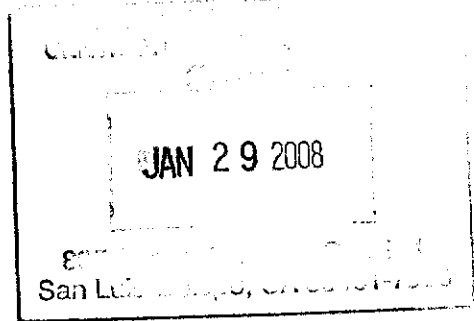
Task Number	Description of Task	Task Completion	Implementation Schedule
(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
3.1	Watershed Coordinator will organize and plan the tour with assistance from local interested parties	A total of 12 local interested persons will assist with planning tour route, agenda and obtaining relevant speakers. There will be four planning meetings. One web-based invitation and conference management system will be utilized to simplify detail management.	June 2008-August 09
3.2	Work with assistance of local commodity groups (e.g. the Grower Shipper Vegetable Association, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, Central Coast Wine Growers Association, and the Strawberry Commission) conduct pre-Land to Sea	3 Meetings. One each for strawberry, vegetable, and grape	March 2008-June 09

	<p>Tour seminars. These will help to educate non-agricultural Tour participants about the economic, labor, and market challenges of farming high value crops such as cool season vegetables, strawberries and wine grapes. These meetings will be called "What do Strawberry Farmers Do?" "What do Vegetable Farmers Do?" "What do Grape Farmers Do"</p>	<p>production. A minimum of 50 non-ag persons will be invited to attend each meeting.</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Document collaborative ideas which originate as a result of the Land to Sea Tour evaluation process</p>	<p>Create a summary report of the Land-to-Sea Tour evaluations and followup discussions</p>	<p>September - December 2009</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p>Facilitate the implementation of one collaborative idea that originates through the Land to Sea Tour final evaluation process.</p>	<p>Create one task force composed of five Land to Sea attendees to select and implement the best collaborative idea that results from the Land to Sea Tour Evaluations or other followup discussions.</p>	<p>2010</p>

California Native Plant Society

January 28, 2008

Jeffrey Young, Chairman
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo CA 93401



RE: Letter Supporting Funding For Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative Proposed Water Quality Projects From Guadalupe Settlement Funds And Statement Of Concern Regarding Some Proposals to Fund Projects Far From The Dunes.

Dear Mr. Young:

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. CNPS has played a large role in dune conservation, and therefore support actions that sustain a healthy ecosystem. We are writing to express our strong support for the package of proposed water quality improvement projects that were submitted by the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Collaborative to RWQCB staff on December 14, 2007.

The Dunes Collaborative proposals, which range from the Meadow Creek watershed in the north to the Santa Maria River Watershed in the south, are all in watershed that has a geographic and hydrologic nexus to the dunes and their hydrology. CNPS has learned that several projects have been proposed for funding that are not in the hydrologic basin and do not relate in any way to the dunes on the southern San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County Coasts. CNPS would request that such projects be denied, and that funds only be expended on projects that mitigate problems in watersheds which were affected by the UNOCAL spills in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex.

Sincerely

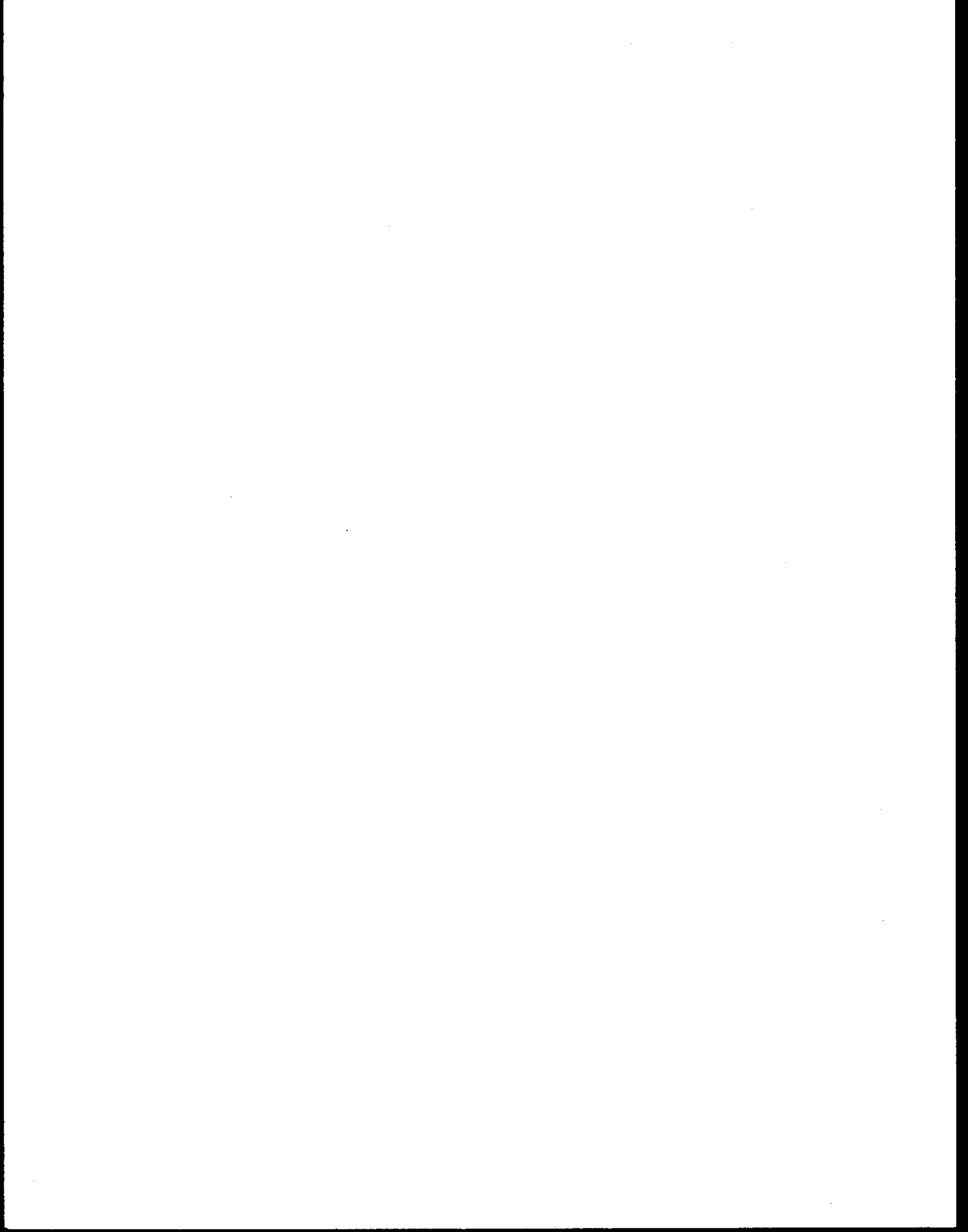
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David H. Chipping". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

David H. Chipping
President: San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS
1530 Bayview Heights Drive, Los Osos, CA 93402
805 528-0914, dchippin@calpoly.edu



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
ATTN: Chairman Young

January 29, 2008

**SUBJ: MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY'S SUPPORT OF
INCREASED ENDOWMENT FOR THE CENTRAL COAST AMBIENT MONITORING
PROGRAM**

Dear Chairman Young,

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) in support of the proposal for an increased endowment fund for the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP).

The MBNMS was designated by Congress in 1992 for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use. The MBNMS encompasses over 5,000 square miles of marine waters and is home to an enormous diversity of fishes, birds, mammals and other species. A critical element to protection of these unique resources is clean water. Non-point source pollution, whether it be from a storm drain or a river, is the primary source of pollution to the MBNMS. Monitoring is necessary to address this issue.

Over the last few years, the Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program and the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) have been working to coordinate monitoring, data management, and water quality assessment efforts on the Central Coast. One year ago, a project was initiated to collate much of the surface water quality monitoring data that exists within the region to perform an assessment of the utility of existing data sources for addressing key management questions about non-point source pollution centered on the sources, status, and trends of non-point source pollutants. Data collected from the CCAMP program were the most substantial of the 13 programs that were used in terms of spatial coverage, data quality, and parameters sampled. Moreover, the CCAMP monitoring design may serve as a model for filling data gaps that have been discovered during the analysis of the available data.

While the CCAMP data sets have shown to be extremely useful for addressing key management questions on a regional scale, there exist critical data gaps on the Central Coast. For example, by compiling much of the data available, we found that measurements of some metals, organic pollutants, and toxicity are in low abundance compared to other types of measurements and that there is relatively poor spatial coverage in upland areas of Central Coast watersheds.

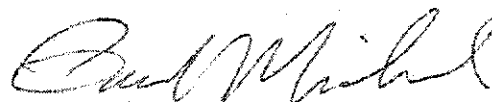


We found that few programs maintain long term trend monitoring sites with sufficient statistical power to detect change. The CCAMP Coastal Confluence sites provide a significant capacity for trend detection in our region, but generally require more years of data to build up sufficient statistical power to detect a meaningful level of change. In addition, funding cuts that resulted in cessation of sampling for a period of a year or more have greatly impacted this data set from a trend detection standpoint.

The unstable nature of the funding for many monitoring programs causes gaps in time series data and changes in the types/methods of measurements that are made. Longer data sets and/or higher data density with consistent methods and adequate data management are required if we are to know how water pollutant levels are changing in the near future. Recently, we developed a system to integrate the CCAMP data sets with other central coast monitoring programs to increase the data density at a number of locations. This has improved the statistical power above that of the individual data sets for detecting trends over time. From our survey of water quality data sources on the Central Coast, the CCAMP program is clearly the monitoring framework we will be using to address non-point source pollution questions, in combination with other data sources in the Region.

Stabilizing and increasing CCAMP funding will vastly improve the monitoring capacity in the Central Coast. We look forward to working with the staff of the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program in the future. Please contact Bridget Hoover of my staff at (831) 647-4217 if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Michel".

Paul Michel
Superintendent

SOUTH COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

PO Box 1165 Nipomo, CA 93444 1165

January 29, 2008

Chairman Jeffrey S. Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Honorable Chairman Young,

The South County Advisory Council has asked me to express its concern regarding your Board's staff report recommendations to spend the Guadalupe Settlement funds. The Board's report overlooks many crucial projects within the geographic nexus area. Geographic nexus is a key component of your Board's stated criteria for these funds. The entire allocation your Board is considering today is outside the geographic area of the spill except for the Paradise Beach acquisition. If you consider that the Paradise Beach acquisition project is being funded from previously allocated funds from 1998, we note that the total amount of newly allocated funds is 7.86 million dollars. We would like to point out that the amount of newly allocated funds recommended by your staff to the impacted watersheds in the geographic nexus area is zero.

The staff report justifies its recommendation stating, "...the vast majority of allocated funds have been in the Santa Maria/Guadalupe area, even though geographic nexus is one of several criteria." However, one could also say that nearly two million dollars in RWQCB allocated funds have already gone to projects outside the geographic area, even though geographic nexus is a key criterion that was defined by your Board to carry "added weight" when your Board shared a side at the settlement table in 1998 with local agencies from both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The RWQCB staff's additional rationale that DFG and Coastal Conservancy have dedicated all their funds to nexus area, raises the question: Are DFG and Coastal Conservancy following the initial intent for these funds?

Only recently your staff worked with the members of the Dunes Collaborative to prepare and rank a number of projects for your consideration. Several of these projects clearly meet all seven criteria. One project even proposed implementing the Santa Maria River Estuary Plan that was funded by your Board's original rounds of fund allocation. However, the general rationale your staff cites for not funding any of these projects is: "they are smaller scale, higher cost projects that do not significantly address the Water Board's regional priorities..." Your staff has also emphasized the need for projects that help bring about cultural change to address root causes of watershed degradation.

There are projects in the Dunes Collaborative project recommendation list that meet both the established criteria and your new emphasis upon projects that promote cultural

change. One such project is the Dana Adobe Cultural Landscape Preservation Project. This is a well developed acquisition project that comes out of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; is located adjacent to an impaired water body within the Santa Maria Watershed; enjoys solid partnerships with the County and the Dana Adobe (a State Historic Landmark) and other non profit organizations; is a well leveraged project exceeding a 3:1 funding match; and addresses the root causes of watershed/water quality degradation both locally and regionally as a regional educational destination.

Both CCAMP and LID are good in concept, big on vision, yet surprisingly deficient in providing adequate detail for such a large allocation. Had this project come to your board as an independent project proposed by an another agency, we suggest that it would have been subject to the same criticism your staff directed to certain projects in the January 3, 2008 report, "...in some cases the projects need much more development and are not appropriate for funding."

You noted in your staff report that, "this funding source is not a grant program; it is a settlement fund that the Board can allocate to its {own} highest priorities." You have emphasized your legal right to direct these funds as your Board chooses without a competitive process. This legal rationale should not override your Board's own priority criteria or the ethical obligation for full public engagement. Doing so violates public trust if nothing else.

Following are some specific concerns about the process of distribution of funds:

- the short window of time you initially scheduled for this item in the prior meeting in absence of any public process for doing so;
- the staff report was posted one week (January 22) prior to a deadline for additional written comments;
- with the singular oversight your agency holds, you may have created an environment that stifled open and constructive professional dialogue and inhibited public input.
- the valuable time of professionals and volunteers who were invited to provide project proposals may not have been properly respected in your project consideration;
- with these shortcomings in the process, it appears doubtful that an open fair process with the same standard for all proposals has taken place.

Perhaps most importantly, the whole structure of a single regulatory agency having the power to both access/negotiate fines and to distribute collected monies seems inappropriate.

As a public agency, we feel it your responsibility to take the time to patiently educate and to solicit feedback from your professional partners in your community and from the public.

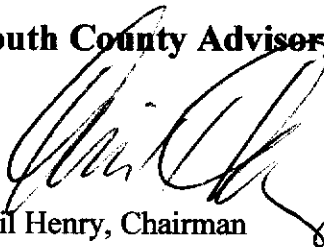
We urge you to support the projects of well-established agencies with worthy projects in the impacted area. This was an original intent of these settlement funds as defined by a team of negotiating parties that was led by your Board.

It is the Council's recommendation that your board defer the pending February 7th and 8th decisions on Guadalupe Settlement Fund allocation and:

- Define a fair open public process for soliciting, considering, and distributing these public funds, and give adequate time for the agencies and the public to review and comment on the existing proposal.
- Request that staff provide your board with additional details in the CCAMP and LID projects, including further developed budget details and more specific tangible outcomes with timelines, and that you develop additional funding sources to provide a reduction of the request amount.
- Request that your board have the opportunity to fully review the proposals solicited by your staff and provided by the Dunes Collaborative which address important water quality issues within the geographic nexus of the spill.

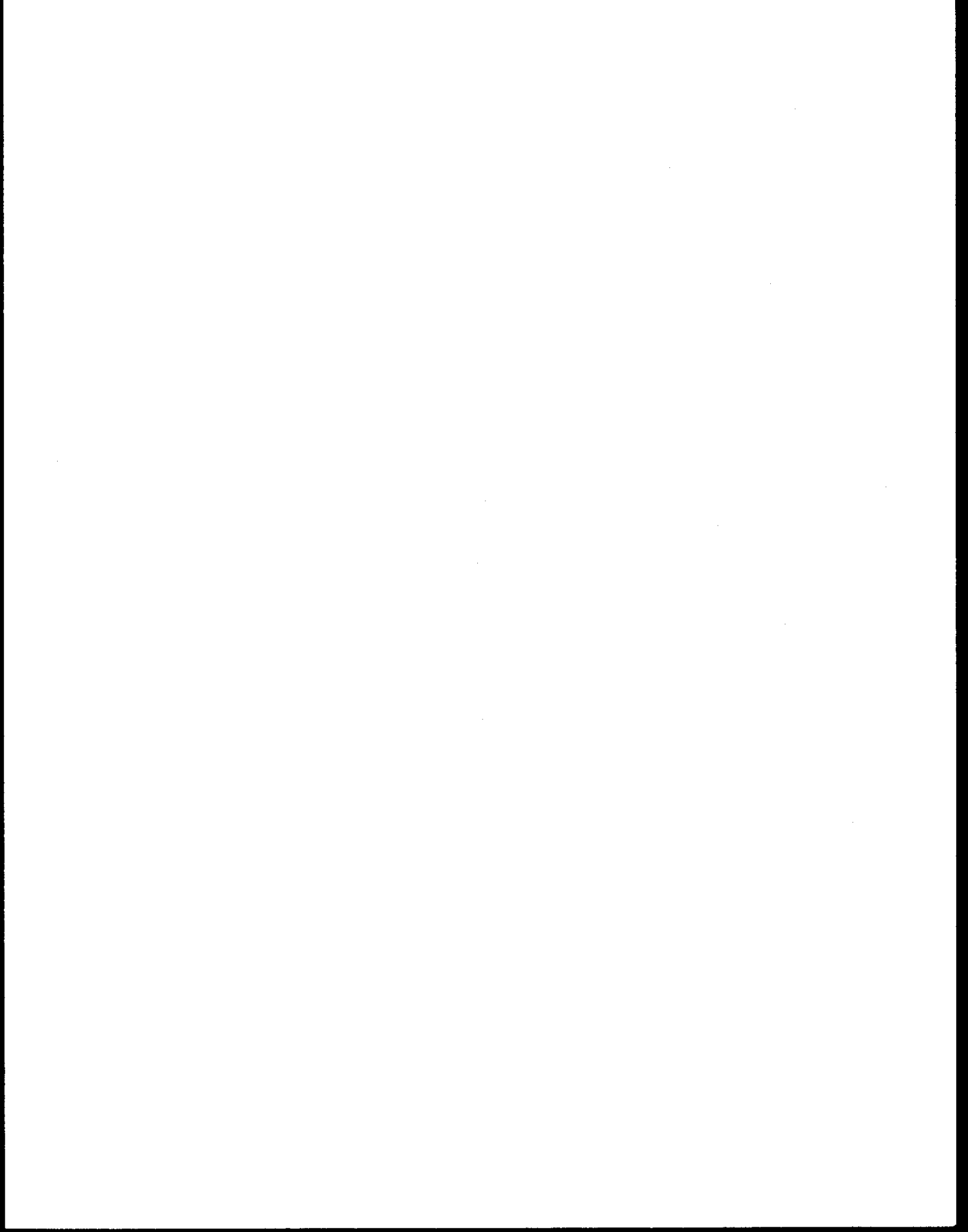
Respectfully yours,

South County Advisory Council



Phil Henry, Chairman

cc: Katcho Achadjian
Sam Blakeslee
Abel Maldonado





Protecting and Restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and Its Watersheds

714 Bond Avenue • Santa Barbara, CA 93103 • Tel (805) 563 3377 • Fax (805) 687 5635 • www.sbck.org

January 30, 2008

Jeffrey Young, Chair and Board Members
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: Item No. 9, Proposed Allocation of Guadalupe Settlement Funds for the Central Coast Low Impact Development Center and the Central Cost Ambient Monitoring Program

Dear Chair Young and Board Members:

Please accept the following comments on the Proposed Allocation of Guadalupe Settlement Funds for the Central Coast Low Impact Development (LID) Center and the Central Cost Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), which are hereby submitted by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is a local non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. We write in support of the proposed allocation of funds to establish and support a Central Coast LID Center and to significantly supplement the CCAMP endowment.

With regard to the proposed LID Center, Channelkeeper is very eager to see the Central Coast take a leadership role in promoting LID and in providing practical services needed to usher in LID from a marginally accepted and understood concept into widespread application on the ground throughout the Central Coast region. While we understand and support the initial focus on the high-growth areas of Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Orcutt and Nipomo, we also urge the Board to prioritize providing these LID services to largely built out areas such southern Santa Barbara County, as there are also many stormwater pollution challenges as well as opportunities to incorporate LID into redevelopment and retrofit projects in this area.

Channelkeeper also strongly supports the proposed augmentation of the CCAMP endowment. CCAMP has served as a model for other regions on how to leverage limited funds for monitoring to create useful and necessary information about the health of the Central Coast's waters. As an organization that runs a water quality monitoring program, Channelkeeper understands how difficult it is to obtain sustained funding for monitoring. This new infusion of funds will enable the region to produce more and better water quality data at a time when such information is increasingly needed to inform the region's nascent efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the Ag

Board of Directors: Sherry Madsen, *President* • Steve Dunn, *Vice President* • Jack Stapelmann, *Treasurer* • Ken Falstrom, *Secretary* • David Anderson • Michael Brown
David Cowan • Dan Emmett • Susan Jordan • Chris Lambert • Y. Armando Nieto • Rick Ridgeway • Kafia Rork • Holly Sherwin • Robert Warner • Paul Junger Witt

printed on 100% recycled paper



Waiver Program and to formulate TMDLs for impaired waterbodies. This information is critical for informing future decisions about how best to use and manage our water resources. The public and decision makers urgently need more and better water quality data in order to enable them to properly evaluate the effectiveness of these and other efforts being made to address our region's serious water quality problems.

Channelkeeper urges you to support the proposed allocation of funds to create a Central Coast LID Center and to augment the CCAMP endowment. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,

Kira Redmond
Executive Director



Marine Pollution Studies
Moss Landing Marine Labs
7544 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Mr. Jeffrey Young, Chair
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

January 28, 2008

Dear Mr. Young,

I am writing in support of using some of the remaining Guadalupe settlement funds for the CCAMP program. These funds would provide for a significant amount of stability for the existing program. It would also significantly expand the program's capability to monitor in upper watersheds for metals and pesticides and to conduct riparian wetland health.

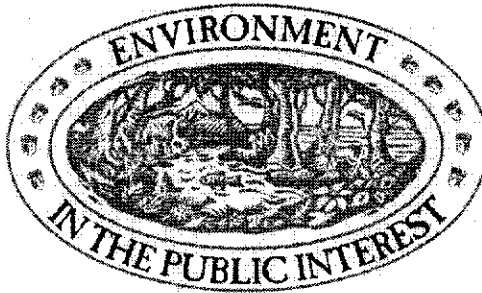
I have been involved with DFG's and the SWRCB's monitoring programs for the past 30 years and I feel the CCAMP program is one of the best run and most valuable programs the State of California has ever initiated. The data is of very high quality and has been very useful in regulatory assessments. It is very important to keep funding monitoring programs like CCAMP because it is only through continuous long term trend monitoring that we will know if cleanup efforts are working.

I urge you to fund this program.

Best regards,

Mark Stephenson
Director, Marine Pollution Studies
Moss Landing Marine Labs
7544 Sandholt Rd.
Moss Landing, CA. 95039
(831) 771-4177

CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD
Received
FEB - 1 2008
895 Aerovista Place, Ste. 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7500



EPI-Center, 1013 Monterey Street, Suite 207 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone: 805-781-9932 • Fax: 805-781-9384

San Luis Obispo **COASTKEEPER**[®]

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
ATTN: Jeff Young, Chair
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

February 1, 2008

Subject: February 7, 2008 CCRWQCB Meeting, Agenda Item 9: Consideration of Funding Water Quality Proposals - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Young and Honorable Board,

I am writing to support Staff's proposed allocation of Guadalupe Settlement Funds.

San Luis Obispo **COASTKEEPER**[®] and our central coast supporters urge approval of the entire proposal as presented by Staff. However, we are especially concerned that the proposed funding to augment the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) and to establish a Central Coast Low Impact Development Center be given first priority.

CCAMP: Since the founding of Environment in the Public Interest and our San Luis Obispo **COASTKEEPER**[®] program in 2002, we have depended on CCAMP as a consistent source of high quality water monitoring data. The funding proposed by Staff will secure CCAMP's ability to continue providing the clear, user friendly water monitoring data needed to further our understanding of water quality on the Central Coast.

LID: We also urge the full funding of the proposed Central Coast Low Impact Development Center as a mechanism to focus on practical solutions to the water quality issues we face as development pressure increases across the region.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Hensley, San Luis Obispo **COASTKEEPER**[®]

Cc: Michael Thomas: mthomas@waterboards.ca.gov



San Luis Obispo **COASTKEEPER**[®] a Program of Environment in the Public Interest is a trademark and service mark of WATERKEEPER[®] Alliance, Inc. and is licensed for use herein.

Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

Santa Cruz Field Office
55 C Municipal Wharf
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Formerly the Center for
Marine Conservation

831.425.1363 Telephone
831.425.5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

Delivered by facsimile

February 1, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Young, Chair
Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



**RE: Support for Funding Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program;
Agenda Item 9, February 7-8, 2008 meeting**

Dear Chairman Young and Members of the Board:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of Ocean Conservancy and our more than 30,000 California members. Ocean Conservancy has been an active participant in a wide variety of water quality issues affecting the State of California for several years. Specifically, we were active participants in the Agricultural Advisory Panel convened to provide input to Central Coast Regional Water Board staff regarding a replacement for the expired agricultural waivers. We are writing to voice our strongest support for funding a Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) endowment of at least \$4.65 million.

Over the past several years, Ocean Conservancy has had repeated opportunities to utilize data generated by CCAMP in a broad range of marine conservation efforts in the Central Coast region. In our experience, CCAMP provides an invaluable tool and has truly set the standard for ambient monitoring in the state of California in spite of limited resources. Critical to CCAMP's value its ability to continue to generate a reliable time series of data over the long-term. Unfortunately, each year there are significant concerns that the program will be cut, threatening this essential program's very survival. Ocean Conservancy strongly supports provision of an endowment to help ensure the stability of the CCAMP program. We believe that funding CCAMP should be a top priority.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney
Program Director

The Ocean Conservancy strives to be the world's foremost advocate for the oceans. Through science-based advocacy, research, and public education, we inform, inspire and empower people to speak and act for the oceans.