



1430 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101;
PO Box 90106, Santa Barbara, CA 93190; Telephone (805) 965-7570; fax (805) 962-0651
www.healthocean.org

January 23, 2017

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906
Email: centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Agenda Item #7 Thursday January 26, 2017: Proposed Resolution Adopting the Human Right to Water, Resolution No. R3-2017-0004

Dear Chair Wolff and Honorable Members of the Board:

Although the comment period for items on the Regional Board's agenda is officially closed, Heal the Ocean (HTO) is submitting this letter to encourage the Board to approve the proposed resolution adopting the human right to water (No. R3-2017-0004). We also would like to offer our assistance in three of the tasks outlined in the 2017 Workplan. Particularly, HTO appreciates the fact that the Prioritization List includes the following:

- **To Map Drinking Water Impacts - particularly the development of region-wide GIS maps to identify areas where public and domestic drinking water wells are impacted by common pollutants (e.g. nitrate)...**

HTO has long worked on the problem of septic systems leaching nitrates into groundwater, and in the case of Los Olivos, a community within the Regional Board and Santa Barbara County designated "Problem Area" for septic systems, this is a serious issue we are working to address with the community. As Regional Board staff knows, the nitrates from the septic systems in Los Olivos are believed responsible for the Santa Ynez water district ID#1 to have closed a drinking water well, until it could drill deeper into the groundwater. We have been asking the Regional Board for an update of the Santa Ynez watershed for some time, for measurements of nitrates in groundwater.

- **Upload Groundwater Data to Geotracker**

HTO has paid for, and supplied, manpower to the Regional Board hazardous waste program/department, to upload City of Santa Barbara groundwater contamination data into Geotracker. We offer the same to have Groundwater Data uploaded to Geotracker, so that this information is available to all. We have been waiting for Regional Board staff to finish its assessment of the Santa Ynez groundwater basin nitrate levels for some time, and still have not received this information. We offer to help!

- **Santa Barbara County Drinking Water Well Data Management Assistance**

Similar to what we are stating above about uploading Groundwater Data to Geotracker, HTO would like to discuss with staff the possibility of our providing paid help to move along the Santa Barbara County Drinking Water Well Data Management as well. Our organization has been working with communities and cities within Santa Barbara County to upgrade wastewater treatment plants to Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) groundwater recharge - and the ability to recharge groundwater is closely tied to Drinking Water Well Data. We offer to help here, too, with paid staff assistance.

We would like to emphasize to the Board that all tasks outlined in the proposed work plan are critical to the issue of the Human Right to Water - and we encourage the Board to adopt this plan. And to reiterate to the Board that the above Tasks are within Heal the Ocean's Mission Statement, to help fund.

We look forward to collaborating with Regional Board staff on these matters, and are available to discuss these proposals at any time.

Thank you very much for considering our comments at this late date. We look forward to discussing this further.

Sincerely,



Hillary Hauser, Executive Director



Alex Bennett, Policy Associate



Corey Radis, Operations Coordinator