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September 30, 2005

**Chairman John Minan**  
**California Regional Water Quality Board**  
**San Diego Region**  
9174 Sky Park Court  
San Diego CA 92123

Re: San Diego Port Tenants Association  
Request for Designated Party Status  
CAO R9-2005-0126

Dear Chairman Minan:

In support of the oral presentation I made at the pre-hearing conference on September 26, 2005, I wish to provide further information on the nature of the San Diego Port Tenants Association ("SDPTA") and the justification for its involvement.

1. Breadth of Membership – At March 29, 2005, our membership roster totaled 186 members. These include master leaseholders, sub-tenants, and associate members. The first two categories have businesses that are located on tidelands and the third category is for companies who supply goods or services to the tidelands businesses.

Included as members are 19 waterfront restaurants, 8 yacht clubs, 14 marinas, 13 hotels, 8 boat repair yards, 4 shipyards, 10 industrial tenants, and a variety of suppliers, fishing industry firms and others with tidelands based businesses.

2. Function – Both the Executive Committee (13 members) and the full Board (36 members) meet on a monthly basis. Business is conducted on a formal basis. Two full-time staff members are employed. The association works closely with the Port District staff, and several SDPTA members sit on standing committees for the Port District. SDPTA was organized in 1989 and has been a positive influence on Port tidelands issues since its formation.
3. Environmental – Air, water, sediment and tidelands soil conditions are a primary concern for many SDPTA members. A number of boat yards, marinas and yacht clubs have dealt or are currently involved with clean-up, surveys or similar matters. The Shelter Island copper TMDL issues and commercial basin CAO's are examples. Several SDPTA members serve on the San Diego Bay Advisory Committee for Ecological Assessment established by Senate Bill 68.

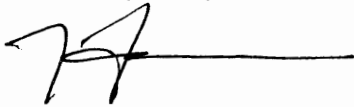
The fact is that all tidelands lessees are impacted by environmental issues involving the bay waters and sediment. The SDPTA member's businesses, whether industrial, recreational, or tourism based, depend upon responsible management of the bay and reasonable measures to remediate past practices.

4. Economic Interests – As business owners dependent on the bay and tidelands, the SDPTA membership may hold divergent views from the strictly environmental interests expressed by EHC, Baykeeper or similar organizations. We feel our views must be heard on an equal platform.

In summary, we are concerned that the consideration of CAO R9-2005-0126 could have implications beyond the specific geography of that order. The economic impact could affect the broad membership of SDPTA, and our involvement as a designated party is thereby warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Very Truly,



**Thompson Fetter**  
**Director and Executive Committee Member**  
**San Diego Port Tenants Association**

cc: John Robertus – SDRWQCB  
George Palermo, Chair – SDPTA  
Sharon Cloward, Executive Director - SDPTA

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