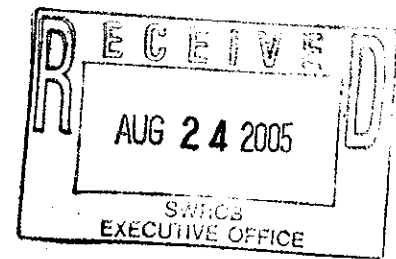


August 20, 2005

Arthur Baggett, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812



Dear Chairman Arthur Baggett,

As a California native of Southern Californis, my husband and I rarely have gone to the coast over the last 20 years. This year we decided to brave the crowds and go to the beach and we were appalled at the pollution of the water. It was not fit to even wade in, let alone go swimming. It is a travesty.

California's magnificent and diverse coastal ecosystem continues to suffer from serious water quality impacts. California's marine ecosystem should have the strictest protections, benefiting the natural resources and the human population that depends on the ocean for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and commerce. Unfortunately, we have not yet achieved this goal.

I would like to register my support for strong protection of ASBS water quality, and to discourage the Board from taking any action that would diminish this protection. We've all heard that the oceans are in a state of crisis, and that coastal pollution and polluted urban runoff are some of the problems that are contributing to this crisis. ASBSs are the jewels of the California coast, and they are especially vulnerable to harm from these pollution sources. As a Californian, I care deeply about these extraordinary marine areas, and I support bold actions to stem the flow of land-based pollution into them.

We must not respond to the crisis in ocean health by weakening the protection of these valuable areas. I urge the Water Board to step up to the plate and meet the challenge head-on. It is imperative to maintain and strengthen existing protections for ASBSs.

Sincerely,

Constance Tolman
14252 Culver Dr. #A124
Irvine, CA 92604

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