

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: Comment Letter- California Ocean Plan Amendments

Dear Jeanine,

As a resident of Cambria California and lifelong avid recreational angler I join many local residents in celebrating the establishment of the Cambria State Marine Park. We worked hard to implement the Marine Life Protection Act in the Central Coast region. Our local park offers a wealth of recreational opportunities to locals and visitors alike. The proposed amendments to the California Ocean Plan, allowing Marine Protected Areas an opportunity to become State Water Quality Protected Areas is a reasonable proposal to codify some of the protections envisioned by the MPA designation. I would hope that language regarding seawater intakes is retained intact. In particular, “no new seawater intakes shall be established within SWQPA-GP” (Pg. 45) This clear prohibition of intakes, should include those under 1 MGD and offer regulatory language for intakes between MPA’s that might interrupt larval transport within the network of MPA’s. The cumulative impacts of such interruptions may challenge the ability of the network to achieve the ecosystem goals inherent in its design.

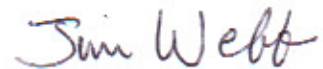
The draft text of an amendment to Appendix IV outlines a process we are eager to pursue: nomination and designation of ocean waters as a SWQPA-GP. It would be an important step in protecting the water quality within the marine protected area that is a cornerstone of local marine ecosystems. The Cambria State Marine Park is not only intrinsically valuable, but recognized for its recreational and esthetic values as well. It seems arbitrary that the existing wastewater discharge at San Simeon, well under the 1 MGD threshold proposed in the amendment, is less than significant due to its size. It is a problem for the down current park which lies within its initial zone of dilution, as frequent fines and untreated discharges have demonstrated.

Polluted discharges to near shore waters can contaminate ecosystems and produce far reaching undesirable effects. For the proposed language to state that “no new or modified limitations, substantive conditions, or prohibitions will be imposed upon existing...wastewater discharge outfalls” as a result of establishing SWQPA’s is a relinquishment of responsibility that precludes necessary remedial

actions. Protecting environmentally sensitive habitat areas, which MPA's are, requires every tool be available to regulators.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for the furtherance of responsible stewardship of our marine resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Webb
1186 Hartford St.
Cambria, CA 93428