June 23, 2010

By e-mail and Federal Express:
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Comment Letter—Malibu Septic Prohibition

Dear Members of the State of California Water Resources Control Board;

The Malibu Association of REALTORS®, representing more than 700 members®, does hereby voice the following position concerning the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Boards’ November 5, 2009 Malibu Septic Prohibition in the Board’s designated “Civic Center Area”:

We Support the City of Malibu’s targeted and scientifically sound solution to maintaining water quality in the Civic Center Area. We Oppose the LARWQCB’s Resolution and Prohibition.

We respectfully Request the State Water Resource Control Board remand the issue to the LARWQCB.

The City's plan has widespread community support and will lead to a successful water quality protection plan.

The Malibu Association of REALTORS® wholeheartedly supports the improvement of our community and clean water for our members, residents, businesses, and visitors.

Improving water quality strengthens real estate values and offers stability in this challenging market. Uncertainty relating to the LARWQCB “Resolution” is detrimental to our members, associates, residents, visitors, and economy.

The “Resolution,” as it currently reads, will inevitably lead to a flawed plan which cannot be implemented and the result will be another decades-old, unresolved situation, as has been the case in Los Osos. This would be an undesirable result and would be detrimental for all who strive to achieve clean water.
The City of Malibu has implemented several plans to improve water quality. Ordinance 321 has become very effective with regard to inspections, certifications, and monitoring of septic systems. A storm water facility to provide initial treatment was constructed in the core area. The Paradise Cove Clean Ocean Project is underway. Legacy Park, an approximately 50 million dollar project, was initiated and is under construction to help reduce storm water runoff into the ocean, while providing a central park for residents and visitors. In addition the city is spending nearly 3 million dollars related to engineering and environmental reports for a centralized wastewater treatment facility.

The City of Malibu’s community based solution involves many people and entities committed to improving water quality through a solution that is effective, and more importantly, feasible to become operational within a reasonable amount of time.

We request, with respect, that this issue be: “Remanded back to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, with instructions to work cooperatively with The City of Malibu and its citizens, in completing the community based solutions and processes currently underway.

Sincerely,

Jan Thompson, President
The Malibu Association of REALTORS®

With copies by regular US mail to:

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The Honorable Julia Brownley
Member, California State Assembly
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The Honorable Fran Pavley
Member, California State Senate
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Mr. James Thorsen
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