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August 20, 2010

Mr. Jeffrey Shu
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Los Angeles, CA 95812-0100

Re: Public Solicitation of Water Quality Data and Information for 2012 Integrated Report –
Surface Water Quality Assessment and List of Impaired Waters [Clean Water Act Sections
305(b) and 303(d)]

Dear Mr. Shu:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the attached datasets for review in developing the 2012 California Integrated Report for the “303(d) List.” These datasets were compiled from various sources throughout Region 4. We include datasets from other sources in addition to Heal the Bay monitoring, as we are not certain that these data would otherwise be submitted. We appreciate the opportunity to submit these datasets.

Each of the datasets is given a unique number and file name below for identification purposes. This summary table includes the electronic file folder names, the name of the waterbody the data relates to, the type of data included, and the name or title of the data source, and the years the data was collected. Details on the files are in the State Board-provided coversheets within the file folders that are being submitted electronically. Below the following table are short descriptions of the data submitted, with a rationale for their submittal.

File Folder Name	Waterbody	Title of data source	Type of data	Year
01-ComptonCreek_Sediment&WaterChem-HtB	Compton Creek	James Alamillo, Heal the Bay	Water Chemistry and Sediment Chemistry	2006-2010
02-MalibuCreekBioassessment-HtBStreamTeam	Malibu Creek Watershed	Kevin Jontz, Heal the Bay Stream Team	Southern California IBI Scores; BMI raw taxa list	2006-2009
03-FishPassageReport2004-CC	Various	The State Coastal Conservancy	Fish Passage Report	2004
04-ArroyoSequitFishBarrierPhotos-HtBStreamTeam	Arroyo Sequit Creek	Kevin Jontz, Heal the Bay Stream Team	Fish Barrier Photos	2010
05-SolsticeFishBarrierPhotos-HtBStreamTeam	Solstice Creek	Kevin Jontz, Heal the Bay Stream Team	Fish Barrier Photos	2010
06-TunaCanyonTrashPhotos-HtBStreamTeam	Tuna Canyon Creek	Kevin Jontz, Heal the Bay Stream Team	Trash Photos	2010



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07-LACountyBioassessment-LADPW	Los Angeles County- Various	LA County DWP	IBI Scores	2006-2008
08-VenturaCountyBioassessment-VenturaWPD	Ventura County - Various	Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura River Watershed Bioassessment Monitoring Reports.	IBI Scores	2001-2007
09-SantaClaraRiverBioassessment-ABCL	Santa Clara River at Newhall Ranch	ABCL (Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories), "2007 Annual Bioassessment Monitoring of the Santa Clara River at Newhall Ranch" (March 2008)	IBI Scores	2007
10-MalibuCreekSteelheadTroutStudy-SCAS2009	Malibu Creek	Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains	Biological Study	2006

Submittal Summary

01. Compton Creek Sediment Chemistry and Water Chemistry Data

Since August 2006, Heal the Bay has initiated a three-pronged monitoring program for Compton Creek as part of a Coastal Conservancy grant. The three elements of the monitoring program included water quality, sediment quality, and toxicity. The water quality monitoring program analyzed metals, nutrients (ammonia, NO₂, and NO₃), hardness, pH, organo-phosphorus pesticides, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) at six sites. The sediment quality monitoring program analyzed Total Organic Carbon (TOC), PAHs, Metals, and organo-chlorines/PCBs at six sites. From our analysis, Heal the Bay identified that a number of water quality and sediment samples exceeded State and Federal environmental standards. Data for the water quality and sediment testing are included in this submittal. Based on these data, it appears that Compton Creek is significantly impaired by a number of constituents. This data may be used to aid in the addition of a listing for nickel in Compton Creek.

02. Malibu Creek Southern California Bioassessment- IBI Scores and BMI raw taxa list

The California Department of Fish and Game developed the Index of Biological Integrity ("IBI") in 2002 for the San Diego Region and adapted the methodology to all of southern California in 2005. Ode, P.R., A.C. Rehn and J.T. May., A Quantitative Tool for Assessing the Integrity of Southern Coastal California Streams, *Environmental Management*. 35:493-504 (2005). Heal the Bay conducted benthic macro invertebrate ("BMI") surveys in Malibu Creek Watershed starting the spring of 2000. During the 2005 survey, Jim Harrington of California Department of Fish and Game conducted a field audit of the monitoring efforts. Heal the Bay received high marks, and Mr. Harrington's report is attached. The survey dataset includes a taxa list and abundance calculations for BMI for 2006, 2008, and 2009. Heal the Bay did not perform Bioassessment in 2007 and submitted data collected prior to 2006 in the previous data solicitation. Of note, the Asian Clam and the New Zealand Mudsail was identified during various years. Asian Clams can alter benthic substrate and compete with native mussel species for food and space. New



Zealand Mudsnaills can out-compete and reduce the number of native aquatic invertebrates that the watershed's fish and amphibians rely on for food. This reduction in aquatic invertebrate food supply can disrupt the entire food web with drastic consequences. Therefore, these data can be used to identify exotic species impairments. In addition, Southern California IBI scores were tabulated for each survey site. Since 2006, nearly 60% of sites surveyed were identified at the “poor” and “very poor” level. The scoring developed by Ode et al corresponds to the following scale: 0–19 = “very poor”, 20–39 = “poor”, 40–59 = “fair”, 60–79 = “good”, and 80–100 = “very good.” Thus, these data can be used to show biological communities impairment.

03. State Coastal Conservancy Inventory of Barriers to Fish Passage in California's Coastal Watersheds

The State Coastal Conservancy conducted an extensive inventory of fish passage barriers in California's coastal watersheds. Some of the barrier data were collected from existing sources, while other barriers were identified in surveys commissioned by the Conservancy. The data were collected and standardized, and are now managed in a peer-reviewed database and GIS mapping program that is available for download at www.calfish.org where the barrier data can be displayed together with other fisheries and watershed datasets. This report can be used to show barriers to fish passage in waterbodies that are not currently listed for this type of impairment, including the barriers in Arroyo Sequit Creek (page 60) and Solstice Creek (page 61).

04. Arroyo Sequit Creek Fish Barrier Photos & 05. Solstice Creek Fish Barrier Photos

Heal the Bay photographed fish barriers in Arroyo Sequit Creek and Solstice Creek in May 2010 to aid the State Board in evaluating a barrier to fish passage impairment listing. Four barriers were photographed:

- one downstream in Arroyo Sequit Creek close to Pacific Coast Highway labeled Barrier 1
- one upstream near campgrounds in Arroyo Sequit Creek labeled Barrier 2,
- one downstream created by the concrete culvert beneath the Pacific Coast Highway, slightly upstream of the beach in Solstice Creek labeled Barrier 3,
- and one further upstream in Solstice Creek labeled Barrier 4

Two photos of each barrier are included. Descriptions of the photos, spatial representation, and rationale are in the document files “ArroyoSequitPhotoDescriptions” and “SolsticeCreekPhotoDescriptions” in their respective folders.

06. Tuna Canyon Creek Trash Photos

Tuna Canyon has long been used as a dumping ground for trash and debris. Heal the Bay photographed Tuna Canyon June 8, 2010 of this year to aid the State Board in evaluating a trash impairment listing for this waterbody. Descriptions of the photos, spatial representation, and rationale are in the document file “Tuna Canyon Creek Photograph Description”.



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07. Los Angeles County Bioassessment- IBI Scores

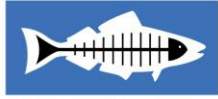
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works calculated IBI scores for various water segments in Los Angeles County. A bioassessment was performed for six, including the Santa Clara River Watershed, the Santa Monica Bay Watershed (including the Ballona Creek Watershed and the Malibu Creek Watershed), the Dominguez Watershed, the Los Angeles River Watershed, and the San Gabriel River Watershed. Included in this submittal are the 2006, 2007, and 2008 *Bioassessment Monitoring Program in Los Angeles County* final reports. These reports are presented in Appendix H of the Los Angeles County Stormwater Monitoring Reports, which can be accessed at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/NPDES/report_directory.cfm. In the various reports, there are multiple sites with scores at or below 39 or designated as having “poor” or “very poor” biological conditions. These extremely low IBI scores indicate biological community impairment. Heal the Bay is submitting this dataset to ensure that State Board is aware of these data when evaluating biological community impairment listings.

08. Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura River Watershed Bioassessment Monitoring Reports.

As part of its Ventura Countywide Stormwater Monitoring Program, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District calculated IBI scores for the Ventura River. Included in this submittal are the *Ventura River Watershed 2006 Bioassessment Monitoring Report* and the *Ventura River Watershed 2007 Bioassessment Monitoring Report*. These reports were each included as Appendix O of the next year’s Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program Annual Report, which can each be accessed at <http://www.vcstormwater.org/publications.html>. The 2006 report contains a historic summary of data collected from 2001 to 2006. In 2006 four stations were rated as poor, located at the Main St. bridge near where the Ventura River discharges into the Pacific Ocean (Station 0), at Foster Park (Station 4), on the lower Canada Larga Creek (Station 2) and Station 15 located on San Antonio Creek. Only one of the nine sites was ranked in the impaired range during 2007. This station was located at the Main St. Bridge near where the Ventura River discharges into the Pacific Ocean. This may indicate biological community impairment in one or more of the sites. Heal the Bay is submitting this dataset to ensure that State Board is aware of these data when evaluating biological community impairment listings.

09. 2007 Annual Bioassessment Monitoring of the Santa Clara River at Newhall Ranch

This report was submitted to Geosyntec by Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. as part of the pre-discharge monitoring requirements for the Newhall Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WRP). It was included in Appendix 4.5: Biological Resources of the *Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and the Spineflower Conservation Plan DRAFT EIS/EIR*. This study is available to the public and was accessed at the Department of Fish and Game’s website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/5/newhall/docs/app-4-5.html>. This study included bioassessment monitoring on the Santa Clara River east of the City of Piru, at the Los Angeles and Ventura County Line using protocols specified by in the State of California, Surface



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Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP 2007). Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratory scientists conducted sampling on July 27, 2007 and October 31, 2007. In addition, this report includes a summary of BMI data collected since 2004. The average IBI scores at each site were in the poor range for the four year period from 2004 to 2007. These low IBI scores can be used to show impairment to biological communities in the Santa Clara River. Heal the Bay is submitting this dataset to ensure that State Board is aware of these data when evaluating biological community impairment listings.

10. Malibu Creek Steelhead Trout Study

In summer and fall of 2006 the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains in collaboration with University of Southern California Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties performed a study following the mysterious discoloration and subsequent die off of Steelhead Trout in Malibu Creek. This submittal includes a copy of the study entitled *Die Off and Current Status of Southern Steelhead Trout (Oncorhynchus nrykiss) in Malibu Creek, Los Angeles County, USA*, which was published in the Southern California Academy of Science journal in 2009. Heal the Bay submits this data on behalf of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Beach Water Quality Data

In addition to the data included in this submittal, we ask that the State Board examine beach water quality data submitted to the Board by various counties throughout the California. Below are links to some of this data which has been made available to the public. As mentioned at the State Board hearing for the 2010 303(d) List, Heal the Bay would like to work with the State Board to develop a plan to ensure that these data are evaluated consistently and appropriately.

<http://co.humboldt.ca.us/HHS/PHB/EnvironmentalHealth/OceanMonitoringProgram/>

http://www.sonoma-county.org/health/eh/ocean_testing.htm

http://sfwater.org/custom/lims/beachmain1.cfm/MC_ID/4/MSD_ID/70

http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/environmental_water_quality/current_water_quality_data/index.htm

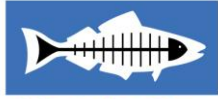
<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/health/beaches/>

<http://www.sbcphd.org/ehs/ocean.htm>

http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth/programs/tech_serv/ocean/results.html

<http://lapublichealth.org/eh/ehftp/>

http://www.longbeach.gov/health/eh/water/water_samples.asp



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Please contact us at (310) 451-1500 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Water Quality Scientist
Heal the Bay

Kirsten James, MESM
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Heal the Bay