



# LAKE SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

1145 San Marino Drive, Suite 125  
Lake San Marcos, CA 92069 t/f (760) 744-4306

*Handwritten:*  
Keri Cote 5/15/01  
please include in file  
for 303(d) list  
information  
(Discuss w/ Aring  
Peter)

Mr. John Robertus  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9771 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste. A  
San Diego, CA 92124-1324

May 9, 2001

Dear Mr. Robertus:

It has come to our attention that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is updating its 303(d) list of impaired water bodies in the San Diego Region.

We would like to bring to your attention the deteriorating condition of the quality of the water in Lake San Marcos, due primarily to upstream contamination from San Marcos Creek and siltation.

Tom McIndoe is a member of the Board of Directors of our Association, and he is heading up our assessment of the quality of the water in Lake San Marcos. He has excellent credentials in this field: he is a biologist with a Masters degree in Public Health and has had seven years' experience in water quality testing.

His findings to date indicate:

- 1) The water flowing from a series of ditches in the City of San Marcos is contaminated. This water ends up in Lake San Marcos. The photographs in Attachment #1 show water flowing through ditches in the City of San Marcos with visible oil discoloration on the surface of the water. The photos also illustrate the turbidity of the water coming into the Lake. These photos were taken in February of 2001.
- 2) Attachment #2 shows the quality of the water flowing into Lake San Marcos in February, 2001. The white foam on the surface of the water may be caused by detergents.
- 3) The fish in Lake San Marcos are developing abnormal growths on their gill plates. The photograph in Attachment #3 shows such a growth on a fish that was caught about April 15, 2001.

*Handwritten:*  
owner - is a private corporation/individual - Does this matter?  
golf balls thrown into lake - is this allowed? Fish + game?

4) During the summer months, the Lake is eutrophic – it is rich in organic materials but deficient in oxygen. There is a noticeable “rotten egg” smell to the water.

5) We had fish kills in the Lake last summer, and we expect them to occur again this summer. Representatives from California Fish and Game and the San Diego County Department of Health confirmed that the fish kill was due to lack of oxygen.

We are very concerned about the deteriorating quality of Lake San Marcos. The Lake is used for recreational purposes, such as fishing and boating. Some people probably eat the fish caught in the Lake. Water from the Lake is used for irrigation. There could be some serious health consequences to these uses, in addition to the problems with odor and aesthetics.

Because of our concerns, the Community Association has authorized funding for water quality testing and testing of fish samples. The analysis is being done by EnviroMatrix Analytical, Inc., 4340 Viewridge Ave., Suite A, San Diego, CA 92123, telephone (858) 560-7717, and we expect to have the results soon.

We are also working with a Scripps Hatchery fish biologist to try to determine the cause of the abnormalities on the fish gill plates.

We will keep you apprised of the results of our research.

In the meantime, we would like to start the process of having Lake San Marcos listed as an impaired water body on the 303(d) list. We strongly believe that the evidence that we have compiled to date demonstrates the high degree of contamination of our Lake, and that it is a candidate for listing as an impaired water body.

We would appreciate receiving information about how we can proceed to have Lake San Marcos listed on the 303(d) list. Please feel free to call Tom McIndoe at (760) 744-1682 or Mary Clarke at (760) 510-9684 if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Achter  
President

Attachments

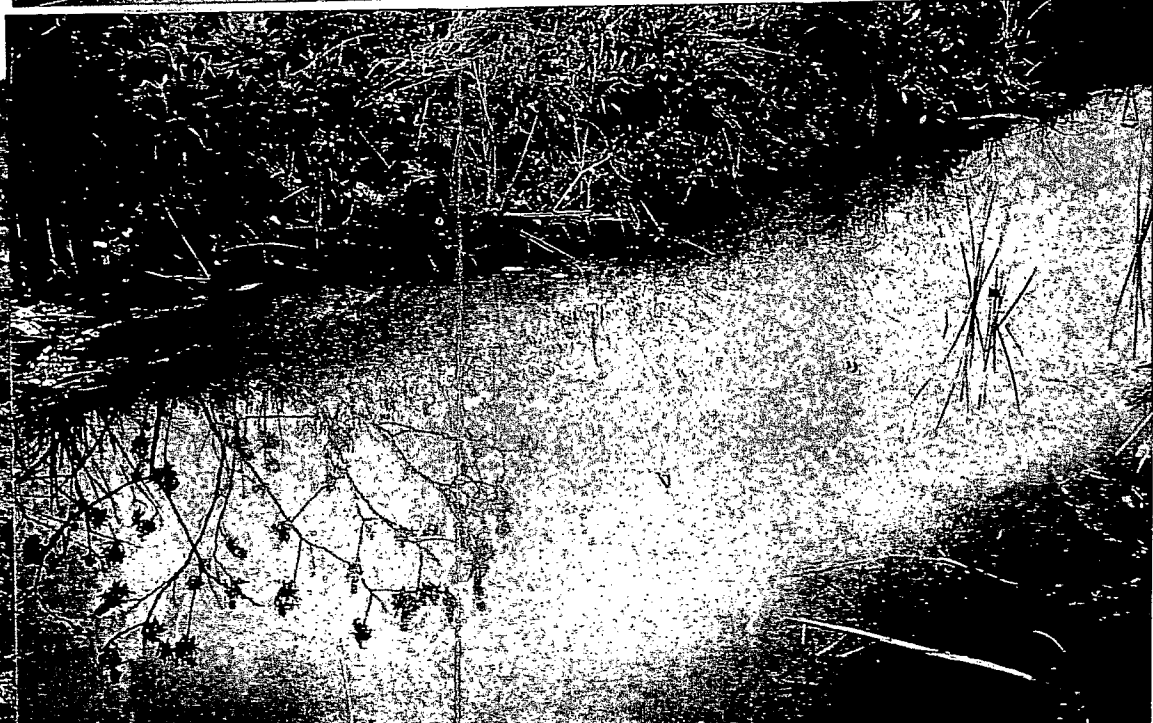
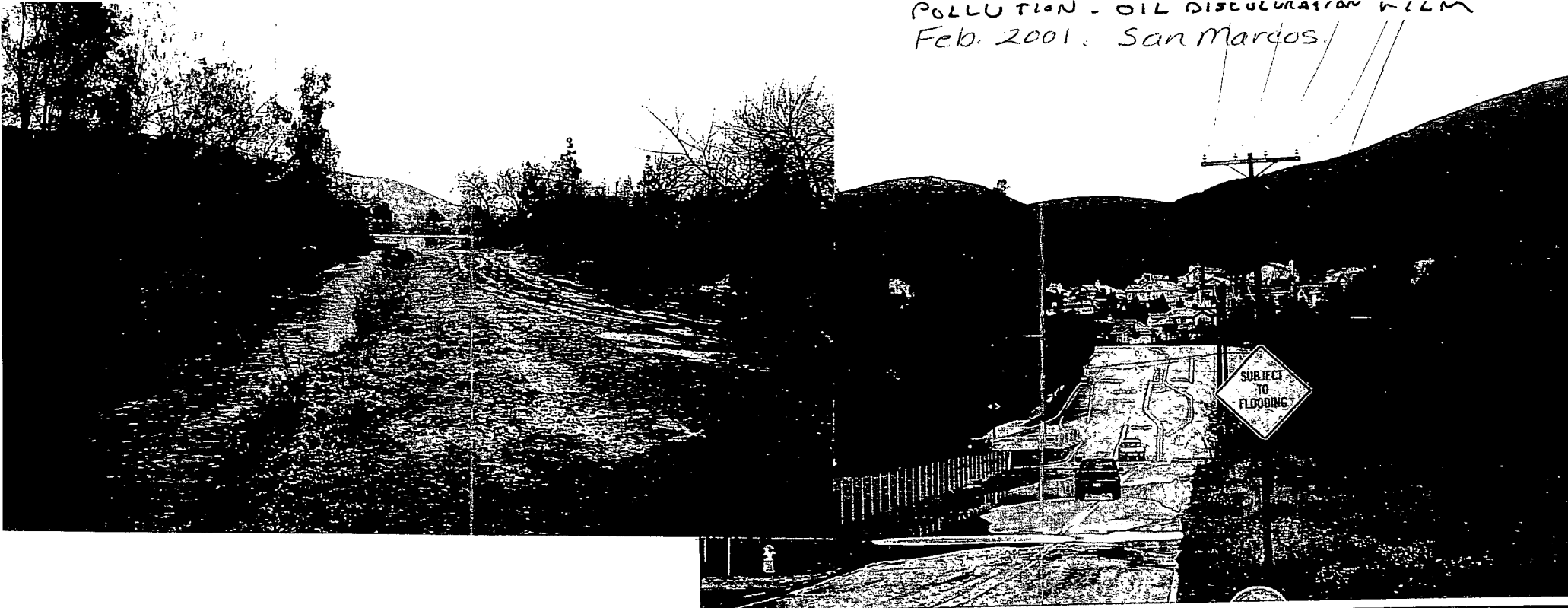
*In response  
on 7/16/1  
su called back 7/26 + tm*

Attachment #2  
Water flowing into  
Lake San Marcos.  
Feb. 2001. Note white foam.



PH00 - VALKS

ATTACHMENT #1  
POLLUTION - OIL DISCOLORATION FILM  
Feb. 2001. San Marcos.



Attachment #3  
abnormal growth on gill plate.  
April 15, 2001.

