

10-26-09

Ms. Cynthia Gorham-Test
San Diego Regional Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court,
Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123-4340
CTest@waterboards.ca.gov

RE:Comments for the 2008 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments

Dear San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board:

My name is Amanda Sousa. I live in Pacific Beach, a beautiful community of San Diego. I have lived in Pacific Beach over the last 6 years as a resident of California.

Water quality is a very important issue to me because I believe our waterways should be available as a resource of not only recreation but also as a life sustaining ecosystem that contributes to the quality of my life. I am a surfer, a snorkeler, a swimmer and a passionate observer of our biodiversity. I spend a substantial amount of time in the Pacific Ocean and on the shoreline.

I am writing in support of the listing of Pacific Ocean Shoreline at LaJolla Shores Beach, at LaJolla Cove and at Pacific Beach Point. I feel it is important to include these waterways on the impaired waters list because I don't want to become sick from my activities in the water. I am exposed to contaminants, pollutants and bacteria on a daily basis. The waterway Pacific Ocean Shoreline at Pacific Beach Point was given an 'F' grade on the Heal the Bay '2009 End of Summer Beach Report Card.' The water is murky on most days and sometimes my wetsuit smells bad after being in the water. Also, I feel it is important to include the waterways of Pacific Ocean Shoreline at LaJolla Shores and at LaJolla Cove to preserve the biodiversity that remains. The area at the LaJolla Cove has degraded in the time I have been visiting for snorkeling, swimming and tide pooling. I see fewer sea stars, sea cucumbers and sea urchins. I feel concerned that the water is not healthy enough to support these animals and their ecosystem leading to the degradation of biodiversity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to oppose the delisting of Mission Bay Shoreline at Fanuel Park and at Sail Bay. I frequently swim in Sail Bay and I spend the day at Fanuel Park enjoying the beach. I feel it is important to include these waterways on the impaired waters list because the waters are frequently discolored and there is no biodiversity of animals. I feel that the low rainfall in San Diego over the last three years has resulted in samples that do not reflect an accurate picture of the health of the waterway. These areas are in very densely populated neighborhoods and the sewer lines around this area have not been replaced since I have been living here. I feel Mission Bay Shoreline at Fanuel Park and at Sail Bay are still in need of a plan of action to clean them up.

I appreciate your acceptance and consideration of my support of the listing of Pacific Ocean Shoreline at LaJolla Shores Beach, at LaJolla Cove and at Pacific Beach Point; and of my opposition to the delisting of Mission Bay Shoreline at Fanuel Park and at Sail Bay. I feel that the community service provided through the San Diego Region Water Quality Board is essential to health of our community and I commend your efforts.

Thank you,

Amanda Sousa
1251 Hornblend St. Apt #17
San Diego, CA 92109
858-292-6631