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Friday, April 17, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board Members

Ms. Dorene D'Adamo
Mr. Tam Doduc
Ms. Felicia Marcus
Mr. Steven Moore
Ms. Frances Spivy-Weber
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Santa Barbara's Recommendation for Expedited Completion of the Feasibility of *Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Potable Reuse* per Water Code Section 13563

Dear Board Members:

Heal the Ocean (HTO), a Santa Barbara based citizens' action group committed to stopping sources of ocean pollution, would like to offer our strong support for the City of Santa Barbara's April 13, 2015 letter urging a more expeditious review of the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for Direct Potable Reuse (DPR).

HTO is committed to stopping wastewater discharges to the ocean and is pushing for recycled water projects as the critical component of our Waste(d)water Campaign. We are working with sanitary districts, water districts, and cities across the Santa Barbara County South Coast to implement recycled water projects by helping secure financial assistance, providing technical support through sponsorship of expert studies, and engaging in public outreach on the benefits of recycled water.

Most recently, we have been spearheading a regional study to determine the feasibility of groundwater recharge with purified water in groundwater basins in Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, and Carpinteria. We have been extremely pleased with the feedback from each local water manager and their enthusiasm for exploring the prospects of Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR).

The capacity of some groundwater basins in our region, however, may ultimately prove too limited for IPR. In these cases, future regulations for DPR will be critical to achieving Heal the Ocean's ultimate goal: full utilization of wastewater supplies in recycled water projects.

The 2016 deadline to complete the State's feasibility study for DPR criteria should be moved forward. The Governor's recent Executive Order on mandatory conservation illustrates how the

drought has entered a new, more serious stage. In light of this escalation, we believe that determining the feasibility of criteria for DPR should also be treated with greater urgency. Thus, HTO fully supports the City of Santa Barbara's recommendation that the State devote the resources necessary to complete its assessment of the feasibility of uniform water recycling criteria for DPR by the end of 2015.

Furthermore, timely completion of the feasibility assessment for DPR criteria will better position the State to develop final uniform criteria for DPR before Proposition 1 funding is exhausted. Completion of the criteria for DPR in tandem with the funding schedule for Proposition 1 will be critical to support the implementation of DPR projects, better reflect the State Water Resources Control Board's draft funding guidelines that gives top priority to DPR projects, and underscore the State's continued commitment to recycled water.

Sincerely,



Hillary Hauser, Executive Director



James Hawkins, Policy Director