

Item 11

November 5, 2009



John Robertus Executive Officer  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

**Item No. 11**  
**Doc. No. 9**

**Re: SUPPORT for Proposed City of San Diego Supplemental Environmental Project Associated with Tentative Order No. R9-2009-042 and November 18 Agenda Item 11**

Dear Mr. Robertus,

San Diego Coastkeeper (SDCK) supports the cooperative Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) submitted by the City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department to reinvigorate and expand the water quality monitoring program in the watershed of the Hodges Reservoir.

This project represents a collaborative and integrated approach to reservoir management. The proposed SEP will assess water quality from tributaries to Lake Hodges in order to understand and address sources of contaminants draining into the reservoir on a sustained basis and support beneficial uses of Lake Hodges. The five years of monitoring data generated by this project will be collected by trained community members, as part of SDCK's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

SDCK's Citizen Water Monitoring Program engages over 400 volunteers a year and works with other nonprofits across the county to collect regulatory-level ambient water quality data. The purpose of the program is to engage trained community members in the collection of data to supplement the municipal data that has been collected to meet permit requirements. Data is used in order to assess the baseline of water quality in our region and support the enforcement of the Clean Water Act. All results are subject to Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) / Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Quality Controls, and all monitoring is operated with an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan and Monitoring Plan in place.

The \$170,000 is scalable amount, and the City and SDCK could conduct additional monitoring, outreach and analysis potential with Regional Board approval.

The proposed project is a unique partnership between a non-profit community-based organization and a municipal agency. These types of collaborative partnerships are essential to comprehensive surface and drinking water management for long-term stewardship of these precious resources. This SEP is aligned with SDCK's current scope of activities, and helps in achieving the organization's mission to protect and restore the beaches, bays, watersheds and ocean for the people and wildlife that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reznik  
Executive Director  
San Diego Coastkeeper

Cc: Catherine Hagan  
Frank Melborn