



August 19, 2005

Arthur Baggett, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chairman Arthur Baggett,

California's magnificent and diverse coastal ecosystem continues to suffer from serious water quality impacts. California's marine ecosystem should have the strictest protections, benefiting the natural resources and the human population that depends on the ocean for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and commerce. Unfortunately, we have not yet achieved this goal.

I would like to register my support for strong protection of ASBS water quality, and to discourage the Board from taking any action that would diminish this protection. We've all heard that the oceans are in a state of crisis, and that coastal pollution and polluted urban runoff are some of the problems that are contributing to this crisis. The southern sea otter, which is dying from a tremendous amount of disease, some of which are land-based, is an indicator species exemplifying this land-sea connection and the need to pay close attention to the discharges into coastal waters. ASBSs are the jewels of the California coast, and they are especially vulnerable to harm from these pollution sources. As a Californian, I care deeply about these extraordinary marine areas, and I support bold actions to stem the flow of land-based pollution into them.

We must not respond to the crisis in ocean health by weakening the protection of these valuable areas. I urge the Water Board to step up to the plate and meet the challenge head-on. It is imperative to maintain and strengthen existing protections for ASBSs.

Sincerely,

Patricia Perry
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United States