



August 29, 2005

Ms Connie Anderson
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

Re: Areas of Special Biological Significance Waste Discharge Prohibition Workshop
Support for Monterey Communities Policy Statement

Transmitted by fax to 916-341-5463 and e-mail to csanderson@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Ms Anderson:

The Monterey County Hospitality Association strongly supports the Monterey Communities Policy Statement dealing with stormwater and other runoff into the Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) in our area; we urge the State Board (and the Regional Water Quality Control Board) accept the plan outlined in the policy and cancel issuing cease and desist orders to the Cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove, or to the Pebble Beach Company.

As the trade association for the travel and tourism industry in Monterey County, the number two industry in the county but by far the number one industry on the Monterey Peninsula, we are always mindful of the need to protect and preserve our ecological resources, including marine resources, which play an enormous role in making our area an attractive, popular destination for millions of visitors. We actively support environmental protection activities and sound, science-based policies. We are aware of no evidence that shows a cease and desist order is warranted or reasonable.

In the area of coastal and marine protection, the Cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove and the Pebble Beach Company have acted reasonably and responsibly over the last three decades, steadily improving their control over, and reduction of, bay and ocean contamination. In addition, the private and public sector efforts to educate residents, visitors and local businesses on responsible stewardship have increased dramatically over the last decade. The policies the cities and the Pebble Beach Company have adopted and offer in response to the current ASBS issue are a strong indication they will continue improvements.

Please accept the offered policies and adopt them as a part of a program of implementing further improvements in controlling stormwater and other runoff into the protected areas and allowing the various parties to further decrease runoff in the manner they have been for years.

Sincerely,

Michael Oprish
President

cc: Edward Balsamo, Latham & Watkins
Kelly Sutherland, Lombardo and Gilles
City of Monterey
Pebble Beach Company
City of Pacific Grove