Ocean Protection Council Meeting
April 17, 2007
Public Comment

Date	Name	Affiliation	Subject of Communication
February 9, 2007	Theresa Acerro		Thank you for acting on plastic trash
February 25, 2007	Gail Sabbadini	San Diego State University	Thank you for acting on plastic trash
April 6, 2007	Noah Smukler	Surfrider Foundation	Support of Morro Bay / Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant Tertiary Upgrade
April 15, 2007	Tony Haymet	Scripps Institute of Oceanography	West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health
April 16, 2007	Melody DeMeritt and Betty Winholtz	City of Morro Bay	Central Coast Waste Water Treatment Projects (Los Osos and Morro Bay/Cayucos)

From: THERESA ACERRO [thacerro@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2007 6:41 PM

Subject: trash-plastic nurdles

Thank-you for taking a stand. I have participated in beach clean-ups and marsh clean-ups and am amazed at the amount of tiny bits of plastic everywhere. this is life threatening to marine life and birds, unsightly and when chemicals leak a health hazard to humans as well.

Theresa Acerro

From: Gail Sabbadini [gsabbad@sciences.sdsu.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2007 7:25 AM

Subject: plastic trash

Bravo! It is great news that something may be done to stop the continuing inundation of coastal and marine environments with throw away plastics. These dispensable plastic items are physically and chemically harmful to the marine biology. Thank you for taking steps remove this danger.

Gail Sabbadini

Surfrider Foundation.

San Luis Bay Chapter

April 06, 2007

Mike Chrisman, Chair
COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation
PO Box 13222
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
slbsurfrider@gmail.com

Re: Support of Morro Bay / Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant Tertiary Upgrade

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the members of the San Luis Bay (SLB) Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. We urge the California Ocean Protection Council (CA OPC) to support and promote a tertiary upgrade of the City of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Community Services District Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Wastewater Treatment Plant. The SLB Surfrider Chapter has been an active participant in the JPA's ongoing deliberations regarding the upgrade of the MB/Cayucos Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) through attendance at JPA, City Council, and Regional Water Quality Control Board meetings and participation in WWTP tours and consultant presentations.

SLB Surfrider promotes a timely (4-5 year) WWTP upgrade to full tertiary standards for the following reasons: the WWTP's influence on the Nationally Protected Morro Bay Estuary, the region's economic dependence on environmental tourism, local drinking water supply challenges, our confidence in the ability of the WWTP operating staff, the impacted financial health of the community and the 301(h) waiver from the Clean Water Act the plant currently operates under. SLB Surfrider requests that the CA OPC write a letter supporting the tertiary upgrade option and to provide any assistance it can to help the community upgrade the sewage treatment plant to full tertiary capabilities as quickly as possible.

With Thanks,

Noah Smukler

Chapter Chair

San Luis Bay Chapter of Surfrider Foundation

Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's waves, oceans, and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

(attachment)

April 17, 2007

Mayor Janice Peters
City of Morro Bay
595 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442

President Robert Enns and
Cayucos Sanitary District
P.O. Box 333
Cayucos, CA 93430-0333

Re: Morro Bay-Cayucos Sanitary Plant Upgrade

Dear Mayor Peters and President Enns:

Ocean protection is a top priority for the Governor and is the core mission of the Ocean Protection Council. All of California's communities share a duty to protect our state's valuable coastal resources. We are encouraged that the communities of Morro Bay and Cayucos have indicated their intent to upgrade the Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant to basic secondary treatment standards. However, we believe that a treatment upgrade can, and should, occur well before the current deadline of 2014. Likewise, the benefits of an upgrade will be far greater for ocean resources and your local communities if the option most protective of our oceans—tertiary treatment—is implemented.

Compared to secondary treatment, tertiary treatment achieves superior effluent quality and enhanced removal of TSS, BOD, pathogens, viruses, protozoa, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides. Only tertiary treatment allows for unrestricted water reuse an important consideration in water scarce regions. Tertiary treatment would cost as little as $2 million more than secondary treatment, which averages to $1 more per household per month. State grants could help also offset this difference.

Both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission report that our oceans face very serious problems. Time is of the essence. Delaying the upgrade until 2014 and implementing anything other than tertiary treatment are simply not worth the risk to our ocean resources. This is especially true for both the iconic California sea otter that makes Morro Bay its home and the Central Coast's ocean-dependent economy.

A plant upgrade to tertiary treatment that is as fast as possible makes environmental and economic sense. As chair of the Ocean Protection Council, I urge your communities to commit to a faster and more efficient upgrade to tertiary treatment. This commitment is critical to protecting our quality of life for future generations—a responsibility we all share.

Sincerely,

Mike Chrisman
Chair of the Ocean Protection Council

cc: Morro Bay City Council Members
Cayucos Sanitary District, Governing Board Members
Alexis Strauss, Director, Water Division, U.S. EPA, Region IX
Jeffrey S. Young, Chair, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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April 15, 2007

The Honorable Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is exciting and refreshing to read the West Coast Governors' Agreement Discussion Paper. I would like to highlight two programs that are aligned with the goals of the Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. Both have broad support in the ocean science community but have the potential to be expanded and strengthened to more quickly meet the goals of the three west coast Governors.

The Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS)

The Governors' Agreement seeks a proactive approach for regional collaboration to protect and manage ocean and coastal resources on the west coast. Central to these management decisions will be a robust and sustained ocean observing system to measure the effects of human activities on marine ecosystems and to forecast the effects of climate fluctuations on the benefits, products, and services we derive from them.

PaCOOS (http://www.pacoos.org) – a collaborative ocean observing effort by NOAA, academic institutions (including Scripps Institution of Oceanography), foundations, state fisheries agencies, and other organizations in California, Oregon, and Washington – aims to provide the ocean information needed for the sustained use of fishery resources and protection of marine species and their ecosystem under a changing climate. PaCOOS builds on the long-term physical, chemical, and biological observations of the California Cooperative Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) and NSF-funded Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program in the California Current Ecosystem, and integrates existing regional observing systems and surveys. Because the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem does not stop at international borders, PaCOOS has also developed mechanisms for collaboration with Canada and Mexico. Through its oceanographic observations, ecological products and evaluations, and public outreach activities, PaCOOS can directly respond to and assist with five of the seven priority areas in the Governors' Agreement:

2. Protect and Restore Ocean and Coastal Habitats
    - PaCOOS's physical and biological marine observations will support the assessment of the effects of climate variability on California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME). PaCOOS can also assist with identifying important ecological areas within the CCLME.
3. Promote the Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Management
    - This requires a regional research and monitoring program such as PaCOOS to gather, evaluate, and disseminate important data in a timely manner.

5. Increase Ocean Awareness and Literacy Among Citizens
    - One of the key goals of PaCOOS is to keep the public continuously informed on the state of the changing ocean environment and its effect on natural resources and their ecosystem. The PaCOOS team shall also educate the public on the relevance, and significance of the observations being made.
6. Expand Ocean and Coastal Scientific Information, Research, and Monitoring
    - This priority area calls for the development and implementation of a regional research and monitoring plan for the entire west coast to provide a framework for addressing the key management issues raised by the governors' agreement. PaCOOS fits this description.
7. Foster Sustainable Economic Development
    - A main goal of PaCOOS is to provide the ocean information needed for the sustained use of fishery resources.

Scientists and administrators from the following institutions and organizations are involved in PaCOOS development and governance:

- California State University represented by Humboldt State University
- Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
- Oregon State University
- University of California represented by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego
- University of Washington
- CeNCOOS
- NaNOOS
- SCCOOS
- NOAA, NESDIS, National Satellite, Data, and Information Service
- NOAA, NMFS, Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- NOAA, NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- NOAA, NOS, Coastal Services Center
- NOAA, NOS, National Marine Sanctuaries Program
- NOAA, OAR, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
- US Geological Survey
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE)

Priority area number five of the Governors' Agreement Discussion Paper, as mentioned above, is to increase ocean awareness and literacy among citizens. There are three NSF-funded Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) on the west coast: COSEE California, in which Scripps Institution of Oceanography is an active participant; COSEE West; and COSEE Learning Communities. The COSEEs are promoting partnerships between research scientists and educators, disseminating best practices in ocean sciences education, and promoting ocean education for a more scientifically literate workforce and citizenry. Coordination by West Coast governments in developing common educational materials for public outreach would be a powerful tool in promoting ocean awareness and literacy. COSEE's Ocean Literacy Network – in which COSEE California is a key player - is a highly appropriate vehicle for such an endeavor.

I look forward to working with you in making the goals of the west coast Governors become a reality.

Sincerely,

Tony Haymet
SIO Director

595 Harbor
Morro Bay, CA 93443
April 16, 2007

California Ocean Protection Council
%Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Council Members:

We thank Marla Jo Bruton for bringing you this letter on our behalf.

Since there was not time to agendize this item for our city council meeting before your session today, we write as two individual council members to ask for your direction and encouragement regarding two Central Coast wastewater treatment projects that could potentially have one solution.

First, Los Osos. Los Osos is Morro Bay's southern neighbor. It is a community of approximately 15,000 residents literally bordering the southern boundary of the Morro Bay National/State Estuary. Since it is unincorporated, Los Osos is currently under the direction of San Luis Obispo County for replacement of its septic system.

Second, the City of Morro Bay and Cayucos JPA. Morro Bay is an incorporated city with approximately 10,000 residents. We are the northern border of the Morro Bay National/State Estuary. Our neighbor to the north is the community of Cayucos with approximately 3,000 residents. A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) regarding a wastewater treatment plant, co-owned by both jurisdictions, has bonded the two towns for several decades. The JPA holds one of the last two primary ocean disposal waivers in the State, which it has agreed to give up through remodel or replacement. The JPA is preparing to make a choice as early as next month, May.

The dilemma is obvious: Should the communities of Morro Bay, Los Osos, and Cayucos band together for one project, or remain two separate projects? Would the Ocean Protection Council or its members have influence to convince the State and Regional Water Boards, and San Luis Obispo County to let the communities band together?

Why? It comes down to money and the environment. Will the two projects compete for the same monies, or is there enough to go around? Is one plant at tertiary with the possibility for reclamation better for the ocean than two plants at secondary?

The City Council of Morro Bay is committed to a minimum of secondary treatment. On several occasions, we have stated we want to do the best thing: go tertiary. However, Morro Bay is a retirement community with an ever-widening discrepancy between the haves and the have nots. Cayucos is a tiny tourist town. Los Osos is a bedroom community filled with working people of all kinds: migrant farm workers, white-collar county workers, teachers, retirees.

Whether one or two projects apply for your grants, we both meet five of the nine eligibility criteria for funding activities. We meet four of the eight criteria listed on the application, and all three of the criteria listed for high priority funding.

Please offer us some answers or direction, if not as a Council as individuals. Together we can clean up and restore our watershed, Estuary, and Estero Bay for which all three communities are stewards.

Sincerely,

Melody DeMeritt
Vice Mayor
City of Morro Bay
demeritt04@yahoo.com

Betty Winholtz
Council Member
City of Morro Bay
Winholtz@sbcglobal.net

cc: Morro Bay City Council
Bob Hendrix, City Manager
Robert Enns, Cayucos Sanitary District
Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County Planning
Chuck Cesena, Los Osos CSD President

ATTACHMENT

Activities eligible for funding by the Council include projects that:

*Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems, habitats, and species.
*Improve coastal water quality.
*Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
*Provide monitoring and scientific data to improve state efforts to protect and conserve ocean resources.
*Address coastal water contamination from biological pathogens

Application criteria:

*Enhance the capacity of government programs to meet the goals of COPA
*Improve ocean and coastal water quality
*Improve the quantity and quality of ocean and coastal habitat
*Increase healthy ocean and coastal wildlife populations and communities

High priority funding criteria:

*Directly relate to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, or coastal-drainage watersheds and address at least one of the above OPC priorities;
*Have demonstrable support from the public as evidenced by letters of support from affected local and state-wide organizations, elected representatives, individuals and other entities; and
*Be of greater-than-local interest.