



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT

A Public Agency for Environmental Research
 SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
 WATER QUALITY
 CONTROL BOARD

March 19, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Robertus,

The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) is pleased to support the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) proposal to the State's Clean Up and Abatement Account for use in the Southern California Bight 2008 Regional Program (Bight'08). Bight'08 is an intensive, integrated, collaborative program facilitated by SCCWRP to effectively assess the health of our ecosystem and identify sources of stressors (pollutants), enabling managers such as the RWQCB to prioritize and mitigate the effects of these stressors.

The Bight Program is conducted every five years and is designed to provide regulators and other environmental managers the tools they need to address important environmental issues. The three previous Bight regional programs, which extend from Point Conception to the International Border with Mexico, have successfully identified stressors in 1994, 1998, and again 2003.

The total budget for Bight'08 is estimated to be approximately \$8 million, contributed almost entirely by in-kind services from local monitoring agencies. The \$525,000 requested by the San Diego RWQCB will augment the portions designed specifically to address the environmental and human health hazards associated with sediment contamination and eutrophication. Enhancements and intensification in the San Diego region will identify impacted coastal wetlands and the severity of impacts, identify which pollutants are causing the possible impacts, and identify the sources that are causing the possible impacts. Finally, the information will be used to develop the tools necessary to most effectively clean up and abate the pollutant sources.

Please feel free to contact me at (714) 755-3202 if you have further questions regarding the Bight'08 Regional Program.

Sincerely,

Ken Schiff
 Deputy Director

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