



April 17, 2012

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Subject: **Comment Letter California Ocean Plan Amendments**

Dear Jeanine:

Our Mission: The North Coast area of San Luis Obispo County is a national treasure. Greenspace will protect and enhance its ecological systems, cultural resources and marine habitats through land acquisition and management, public education and advocacy.

Greenspace was an active advocate for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas for the Central Coast. The entire village of Cambria lies in an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area due to the presence of the Monterey Pine Forest. Santa Rosa and San Simeon Creeks provide homes to threatened and endangered species including Snowy Plover, Red Legged Frog, Tidewater Goby, and Steelhead Trout. Our ocean waters and forested village environment draw tourists from all over the world, and the popular Elephant Seal haul out at Pt. Piedras Blancas is now said to be drawing more tourists to the area than Hearst Castle. Pt. Piedras Blancas, the Cambria State Marine Park, and White Rock Conservation Area have been set aside as areas for habitat protection and ecosystem based management of species. Excellent water quality is an essential element to the ongoing survival of species of concern in these special areas under protection.

Currently no intake or outfall pipelines exist in the Pt. Piedras Blancas or White Rock Conservation Marine Protected Area's. We strongly oppose the creation of new intake or outfall pipelines in these areas and support the establishment of a new category of State Water Quality Protected Areas (SWQPAs) that would protect natural water quality within MPA and other areas designated by the State Water Board.

The one ocean outfall in the town of San Simeon has been cited many times for discharging pollutants into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This wastewater treatment plant capacity is 200,000 gallons per day. Unfortunately, the San Simeon outfall also discharges into the Cambria State Marine Park. Recommendations in the SLO North County Area Plan include limiting the size of the plant, moving the plant location due to coastal erosion, and/or treating effluent for beneficial purposes (groundwater recharge or recycling) rather than continuing the use of this outfall. Opportunities to eliminate this outfall or reduce pollutants should be pursued and Greenspace supports those efforts.

Greenspace supports the Staff Recommendation: Amend the existing process described in Appendix IV of the Ocean Plan for designating Areas of Special Biological Significance to include SWQPAs-GPs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for extending the comment period to April 18.

Sincerely,

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