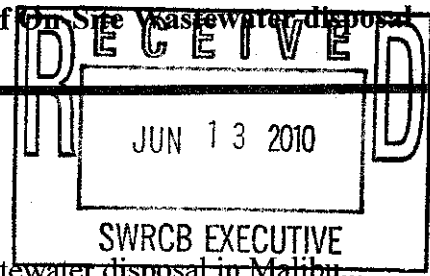


Jeanine Townsend - A public comment regarding the prohibition of On-Site Wastewater disposal in Malibu...



From: Ken S. <bukahuna@yahoo.com>
To: <jtownsend@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sunday, June 13, 2010 2:28 PM
Subject: A public comment regarding the prohibition of On-Site Wastewater disposal in Malibu...

Dear Board,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed approval of an amendment to the Water Quality Control plan for the Los Angeles region basic plan to prohibit on-site wastewater disposal systems in the Malibu Civic Center area.

My name is Ken Seino. Last November at the public hearing before the board, I briefly told my story of having contracted a coxsackie B-4 virus from the Malibu Creek sewage flowing out into the ocean at Surfrider Beach where I was surfing. The creek was spilling out horrible amounts of raw fecal sewage which I couldn't help but ingest as I surfed in the brown and fetid slick covering the surface at third point, Surfrider Beach. I immediately left the water and threw up what nauseous material I could, arriving at the showers to get the pollution off of me, my wetsuit, and surfboard. But by the next morning, I was sick with a temperature of 103 degrees. I stayed sick for three whole weeks, most of that time unable to get out of bed. After 10 weeks of what I thought was a complete recovery, my heart stopped ("second-degree heart-block") due to the infection of the coxsackie virus upon the conductive system of my heart.

I was recently interviewed on camera about this incident and the infection's effect upon my life. Please see an eight and a half minute film of me relating this ordeal: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOd1mFfputw> Please click on the highlighted blue to see it.

I'm concerned that the City of Malibu is trying to escape from the responsibility of complying with what the board has mandated. They are trying to come up with cheaper and less-effective means for satisfying the board. They are trying to defer this whole process. And the City of Malibu, the richest city in L.A., is trying to tell you that they can't afford to clean up the water that is sickening the citizens of Los Angeles as they swim and surf here. Yet, the pollution of Malibu continues. One visit to www.healthebay.org will show that the failing grades at Malibu have not changed a whit in the 7 months that have transpired since the board meeting in November. People continue to get sick. My own boss has told me he's had a nasal infection since surfing at Malibu 3 weeks ago that won't go away. I personally refuse to surf at the beach I love since I almost lost my life from my own infection there.

Please realize that I've surfed here since 1971. I've commented on this issue for 20 years. Before Malibu became a city, I had been interviewed by the Los Angeles Times about the pollution that spills out of Malibu Creek and the sickness that invariably ensues from surfing or swimming at Surfrider Beach where all the infected water flows out to. I have friends who died as a result of their infections. Four other people that I know have succumbed of the very illness that I did. Two of them are dead now, due to the damage this infection does to the right ventricle of the heart. I've been told not to expect a long life because of my infection. What are the odds of five people (including me) who know each other having the same rare life-threatening disease? They all surfed Malibu Surfrider Beach. They all surfed when the pollution was coming out of the creek. And they all suffered a life-threatening illness for engaging in an activity (surfing) that was thought to be a healthy pursuit.

Is this something to be winked at? Is this the normal cost of civilization? Can the wealthy dictate what illnesses, diseases, and deaths are permissible of the public in the name of Malibu businesses and real-estate development?

I plead with you to consider the public safety, which for decades has suffered and is waiting for only the opportunity to live a healthy life.

Most sincerely,
Ken Seino,
a Malibu surfer since 1971