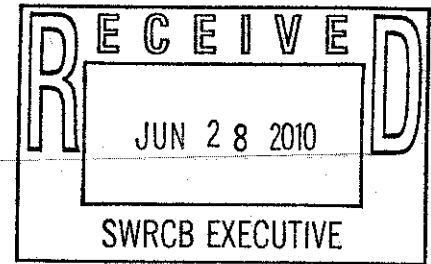


commentletters - Comment Letter-Malibu Septic Prohibition

From: Sharon Talovic Ph.D. <sharon@talovic.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 6/28/2010 1:28 PM
Subject: Comment Letter-Malibu Septic Prohibition
CC: <LAdams@calepa.ca.gov>



June 28, 2010

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

I am writing to submit public comment on the proposed approval of an amendment to the water quality control plan for the Los Angeles region to prohibit on-site wastewater disposal in the Malibu Civic Center area. I oppose the resolution of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted on Nov. 5, 2009, to prohibit discharges from existing and new septic systems in the Malibu Knolls. I am personally invested in finding a solution to the water quality problem, having raised a son who I would not allow to swim at Surfrider Beach, which as the name suggests had wonderful waves for surfing. This was simply because I was aware that the "grade" for water quality was frequently "D" or "F," completely unacceptable for my son's health. Nor would I allow him to wade in the Malibu Creek as we hiked inland up the canyon, far from the beach. It was well known this water was not safe, as well. This problem absolutely must be solved. My son is off to college soon, but no one's children should be exposed to toxicity as they swim, no matter how enticing the waves and water may appear. Nevertheless, the inclusion of the Malibu Knolls in the proposed solution is scientifically unjustified, and I urge you to remand the Regional Water Quality Control Board's resolution and move forward by integrating scientifically supported solutions. Only then can we realistically hope for clean water in the Malibu Creek and Lagoon.

To further explicate my recommendation, I offer the following:

1. My home, and the Malibu Knolls in general, has no impact on any poor water quality in local waters. My residence is located in the Malibu Knolls, a group of homes on the ridgeline along the North and 200 feet above the Malibu Civic Center, as well as about ½ mile away from the Ocean/Lagoon; any bacteria from my septic's dispsursants would never reach the ocean. They are dissipated in the ground.
2. The solution to poor water quality should be a direct result of studies which isolate the problem, considering the anticipated expense to all taxpayers. The soon-to-be-published results from the studies underway in Malibu, many requested by the LA Regional Water Control Board, will evidently provide us with information necessary to arrive at the proper solutions.
3. Even the City of Malibu excludes the Malibu Knolls in their counterproposal for cleaning up the Lagoon. The studies have already found that we are too far from the affected waters to impact them. The City is working on a plan targeting users with highest potential impact to water quality. This plan just simply does not include the Knolls. Evidently an assessment district will have to be established, and the City believes it has the support of the commercial businesses to this end.

4. The Knolls consists of 60 single family homes. The bulk of our residents have families which are grown, as in my case. The average person per household is two. The calculation for nitrogen load per home used by the Regional Water Board was four. Thus, the nitrogen load calculations are not accurate and are, indeed, inflated. But, of course, this information is actually moot, as the bacteria from our septic systems never even approaches the waters of the creek or lagoon.

5. The proposed ban places an unnecessary financial burden on The Knoll residents. It will result in diminishing property values for an undetermined period of time. This ban diminishes a financial resource for the residents, upon which many of them are depending. There is not sufficient evidence that this hardship will result in clean water; indeed, there is evidence it will not.

An ill-informed decision, no matter how overdue a solution may seem, will not advance us toward clean water. I applaud the impetus which will force a solution soon. We have waited too long to clean our environment. But we must approach the solution as reasonably as possible so that the result will not only be effective, but the solution can be supported by reasonable citizens. Thank you for considering my position as a resident of the Malibu Knolls.

Sincerely,

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