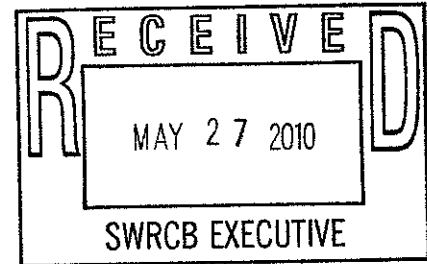




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May 27, 2010

Charlie Hoppin, Chair and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Electronic Mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



RE: State Water Board's Proposed 2010 California 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report

Dear Chair Hoppin and Board Members:

On behalf of the Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program (VCK), which represents over 700 members in Ventura County, I welcome the opportunity to submit these comments on the State Water Board's Proposed 2010 California 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report. VCK commends the thorough and collaborative effort that State and Regional Water Board staff demonstrated throughout the process of updating California's 303(d) list.

VCK strongly encourages the State Water Board to adopt all of the 1,464 new 303(d) listings proposed in the 2010 Integrated Report, and advocates that State and Regional Water Board staff swiftly implement enforceable, accountable strategies to clean up the state's waters. Additionally, VCK would like to emphasize that the Board adopts these new Ventura County water-body pollutant combinations proposed for addition to the 303(d) list in the 2010 report:

Calleguas Creek Watershed: Calleguas Creek Reaches 2, 3, 7, 9A, 9B, and 10 (Trash)

Santa Clara River Watershed: Santa Clara River Estuary (Toxicity; Nitrogen, Nitrate); Santa Clara River Estuary Beach – Surfer's Knoll (Indicator Bacteria); Santa Clara River Reach 3 (Total Dissolved Solids, Toxicity); Santa Clara River Reach 5 (Iron); Santa Clara River Reach 6 (Benthic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments, Iron, Copper); Santa Clara River Reach 11 (Specific Conductance, Total Dissolved Solids); Surfer's Point at Seaside (Indicator Bacteria)



Ventura River Watershed: Canada Larga (Total Dissolved Solids); Coyote Creek North Fork (Indicator Bacteria, Selenium); San Antonio Creek (Total Dissolved Solids, Indicator Bacteria); Ventura River Reach 3 (Indicator Bacteria)

While these proposed 303(d) listings are of grave concern, is a notable achievement by State and Regional Water Board staff with respect to careful review of and attention to available data. Almost four decades after Congress promised fishable, drinkable waterways with the creation of the Clean Water Act, the 2010 Integrated Report details the severe impairment of more than 1,700 of our waterways, representing over 3,500 303(d) listings. The staggering number of impairments is a stark reminder to all Californians of the extent to which water pollution prevents the enjoyment of beneficial uses that waterways once provided and serves as a disturbing reflection of how very far we are from achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act.

California deserves clean, thriving, flowing waterways, now and in the future. We thus urge the State Board's adoption of the recommended additions to the 2010 303(d) list throughout California and in Ventura County's: Calleguas Creek watershed, Santa Clara River watershed, Ventura River watershed, and coastal waters, and look forward to working with you to restoring the ecological integrity and water quality of the state's impaired waters.

Sincerely,



Associate Director and Staff Attorney
Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program

