



To: California Coastal Commission

Date: May 3, 2017

Re: *Agenda Item 21a, Application No. 3-16-0233 (South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Redundancy and Improvements)*

Honorable Commissioners,

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection of our ocean, waves, and beaches. The San Luis Obispo chapter of Surfrider supports approval of CDP number 16-0233 pursuant to staff's recommendation (dated 04/21/2017). We believe staff's recommendations will help guide the SSLOCSD toward managed retreat of vital infrastructure. Our county's water quality and coastal resources will greatly benefit from the results of this process.

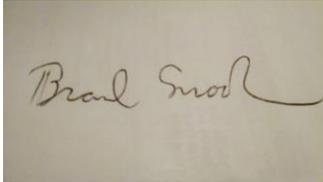
Also of future benefit, SSLOCSD and the city of Pismo Beach are developing a partnership called a "Regional Groundwater Sustainability Project". The partnership is beneficial to all, potentially supplying a drought-proof water supply for 44,000 people. Our chapter has supported this type of arrangement for many years, as we have advocated for a reduction in ocean outfall while raising public awareness of water conservation options, including the benefits of wastewater reclamation.

We agree with staff's recommendation as written in the report: "Commission staff believes the proposed redundancy infrastructure is necessary in the near term and critical to avoiding potential water quality problems". Our county's residents and coastal users were impacted by the SSLOCCD's massive sewage spill of December, 2010. Our chapter presented public comment at the Regional Water Quality Control Board's hearing, where the State Water Board laid out their case against SSLOCSD. We were critical of SSLOCSD's management, their conflicts of interest in leadership roles, and leadership's inability to address operational and emergency preparation issues which may have avoided the sewage spill. SSLOCSD eventually plead "guilty", leadership of SSLOCSD has changed, and many of those changes have been positive. However, why risk the health and safety of our coastal community again?

Our chapter has stated in public comments to the SSLOCSD as follows, "The Redundancy Project is duct tape and bubble gum until the new plant can be built outside the flood zone". Our chapter will continue to advocate for managed retreat of vital infrastructure, as we have at SSLOCSD, Morro Bay, and elsewhere. We also recognize that the siting of a new wastewater reclamation plant can be challenging for our communities, so we appreciate staff's reference to

3 previously identified sites (See MKN document, Exhibit 7 in the Staff Report). The Commission's approval of CDP number 16-0233 pursuant to staff's recommendation will help SSLOCSD's management design a better project which is outside a coastal flooding zone, clearly a superior long-term solution for siting of SSLOCSD's next wastewater treatment and reclamation plant.

Thank you for your consideration,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Brad Snook" in a cursive, flowing script.

Brad Snook

Chair, Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo

E-mail: chair@slo.surfrider.org