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Monday April 9, 2012

Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Janet Wolf, Steve Lavagnino, Joni Gray, Doreen Farr
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County, California 93101

**Re: April 10, 2012 Board of Supervisors Agenda Item #6 Fire/Citygate
Recommendations**

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

During Tuesday, April 10, 2012 hearing you will receive and file a report on the analysis performed by Citygate, LLC of the Fire Department Organizational Review and Fire Operations Enhancement Plan, which include responses to the Citygate recommendations, a phased operations enhancement plan, and a capital improvement plan.

Heal the Ocean is a bit late in commenting on the recommendations in the report, but would like to go on record and/or advise the Board, as well as Fire Chief Michael Dyer, that Heal the Ocean believes the CUPA/Hazardous Materials program of Santa Barbara County Fire is crucial in its role of guiding CUPA, LUFT and SMU remediation activities within Santa Barbara County, particularly as it relates to contaminated soils and groundwater.

In that Citygate Recommendation #15 describes a staffing and economic analysis in progress with a Completion Date of August 2012, Heal the Ocean would like to inform the Board (as it has informed Supervisors Carbajal and Wolf in separate meetings) that we have formed an alliance with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to apply for a Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) grant of \$250,000 for the purpose of assisting County Fire with its CUPA/Hazardous Materials program.

Regional Board staff (Thea Tryon, Senior Engineering Geologist, Land Disposal & Site Cleanup Programs) is working with Heal the Ocean to make the LGA grant application successful, and Ms. Tryon has guaranteed the "heavy lifting" on the paperwork, with County Fire in an advisory role (so as not to add more work to an already-burdened agency).

As Ms. Tryon notes, there is a need "...to coordinate with Central Coast RWQCB and Santa Barbara County Fire Site Management Unit to develop whole basin view/approach

to the regional geology and hydrogeology, fate and transport of contaminants throughout the groundwater basin beneath City of Santa Barbara, and identify the highest risk to human health and the environment areas so that prioritization can be made for (eventual) assessment and cleanup of the sites in close proximity to these high risk areas.”

As a member of the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) steering committee, Heal the Ocean has put the issue of groundwater contamination on the list of Objectives and Targets to be considered in the IRWM plan. The State Department of Water Resources (DWR), which is administering the LGA grant program (application due date is June/July 2012) has expressed enthusiasm about funding this project.

Heal the Ocean looks forward to bringing these funds to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to contribute to the continuation of its CUPA/Hazardous Materials program.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hillary Hauser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Hauser, executive director

cc: Fire Chief Michael Dyer