



Katherine Douglas *General Public Comment - Heal the Ocean*

**From:** hillary@healtheocean.org  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 2:10 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Heal the Ocean to BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OCTOBER 1 MEETING - Public Comment  
**Attachments:** HTO to Board of Supervisors Public Comment Oct 1 2024 meeting re Miramar Hotel.pdf

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Dear Clerk of County Board of Supervisors  
Please distribute the attached letter to the Supervisors for their meeting tomorrow, October 1, 2024.  
Thank you!  
Hillary

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director  
Heal the Ocean  
1430 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 965-7570 Mobile: (805) 895-5559  
[www.healtheocean.org](http://www.healtheocean.org)



1430 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101;  
PO Box 90106, Santa Barbara, CA 93190; Telephone (805) 965-7570; fax (805) 962-0651  
[www.healththeocean.org](http://www.healththeocean.org)

September 30, 2024

Chair Steve Lavagnino and Members  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

EMAIL TO: [sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

**RE: Public Comment to Board of Supervisors Hearing October 1, 2024**

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Honorable Supervisors:

In the matter of the Miramar Project, Heal the Ocean (HTO) has been following the public process in the discussion of Project pros and cons. This letter is not about pros and cons – it is about the skewing of the public process.

HTO got its start with the publication of my article, “Another Day at the Beach,” in the Santa Barbara News-Press on 8/9/1998 <https://shorturl.at/R1I2C> which was about the mishandling by County officials of a serious ocean pollution problem and swerving around the issue. The article was not about the problem itself, but the mishandling of the situation by public officials

We urge the County to avoid such repeat. In the matter of the Miramar Hotel Project there has been an error in the scheduling of the public hearing process. This error is crucial, in that the Miramar case is being processed under the provisions of Senate Bill 330 that limit the maximum number of public hearings the County can hold in its review of the Miramar Project to five.

The project was to be heard by the Montecito Planning Commission (MPC) on 10/16/2024, but due to a scheduling conflict of a principal Interested Party to the project, this hearing was not only delayed, but cancelled. It leapfrogged to the County Planning Commission (CPC) on 9/25/2024. At this hearing there was protest from the public and a MPC Commissioner himself about procedural irregularities, and in response CPC scheduled a next hearing for CPC for 10/9/2024 at which public comment could be taken. The Project would then return to MPC on 10/18/2024 before returning back to CPC on 11/1/2024.

With the SB330 limit of hearings set at five (5) – we note that 3 of these hearings are being assigned to CPC. The public deserves the right to access the entire hearing process, in correct orderly fashion, to get to the correct decisions for the Miramar Hotel Project. Three CPC hearings are too many, especially when one of those hearings looks to be a bureaucratic zig zag error on the part of County scheduling.

**Heal the Ocean therefore asks that the CPC hearing now scheduled for October 9, 2024 be cancelled, and that CPC hear the project after the Montecito Planning vets the project on 10/18/2024. With MPC input, the CPC can properly hear the issues on 11/1/2024.**

This will allow the public the full suite of hearings it deserves, which should also include the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Hauser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director.