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July 2, 2010

Honorable Janet Wolf, Chair and
Members, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

RE: LONG TERM MASTER PLAN FOR GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

It is our understanding that the proposed Goleta Beach Park 2.0 plan provides for further erosion of the park at the western end. If this erosion is allowed, approximately 1,000 feet of the Goleta Water District's (District) recycled water pipeline will need to be relocated at a cost that will likely exceed \$700,000. As described in the County of Santa Barbara (County) Parks Department's (Parks) agenda letter dated June 22, 2010, it is proposed that Parks will work with the District and Sempra Energy to relocate the respective utility lines into the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) CA Route 217 right-of-way. It is also proposed that the County's pressurized wastewater line be relocated into the same right-of-way.

While the District is not necessarily opposed to this proposal in concept, the following concerns and comments are offered for the Board of Supervisors' consideration:

At a meeting between the District and Parks on February 8, 2010, County staff indicated that it was unsure whether Caltrans would allow pipeline construction up to Highway 217. In fact, it may be likely that Caltrans would require a distance from the highway to any parallel constructed pipeline. The staff report provides no indication whether Parks has discussed their proposal with Caltrans and offers no indication of Caltrans' potential receptivity. Additionally, it is unclear whether there is adequate space within the CA Route 217 right-of-way to accommodate separation requirements set by the California Department of Public Health Services between sewer lines, potable waterlines and recycled waterlines. Separation distances will also be required for construction and maintenance of the utility lines to preserve the safety of the facilities and workers maintaining or repairing them. **For these reasons, the feasibility of relocating the District's utility line into the CA Route 217 Caltrans right-of-way is undeterminable at this time and cannot be regarded as a realistic solution until a) Caltrans provides an indication that Parks' proposed action plan is acceptable and b) adequate space is available to allow for proper separation of all applicable utility lines.**

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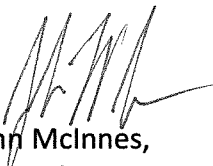
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The Parks staff report also proposes to establish a new "utility corridor protection zone" that includes the installation of "soft" protective structures. However, no additional information has been provided and Parks has indicated that it is currently "researching so-called soft protective structures." Additionally, Parks has indicated that said structures would only be installed under certain conditions based on "trigger points" which also have not yet been disclosed. For these reasons, **the effectiveness and reliability of this protection zone concept is undeterminable at this time and cannot be regarded as providing the necessary assurance that utilities will be protected once they are moved at significant expense.**

Finally, Parks has not affirmed whether the County will fund the entire project, including the relocation of the utilities, or require the District's rate-payers to assume the responsibility of relocating the recycled water line. If the County places this responsibility on the District, a rate increase would be necessary and subject to Proposition 218 requirements. An indication of the County's intent with respect to this matter would provide clarification and help inform future District decisions regarding rates and future recycled water systems and deliveries. Pertinent to this issue is Parks agenda letter, fiscal discussion section, which indicates that the new concept plan will realize significant savings over the previously proposed permeable pier proposal and improvements to the park's infrastructure will have a net positive impact on the park's facilities.

The District recognizes the County's challenges with respect to the long-term management of the Goleta Beach and appreciates the Board of Supervisors' consideration of the matters raised herein.

Sincerely,



John McInnes,
General Manager