



Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program

Participating Agencies

September 23, 2013

Camarillo

County of Ventura

Fillmore

Moorpark

Ojai

Oxnard

Port Hueneme

San Buenaventura

Santa Paula

Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks

Ventura County
Watershed Protection
District

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AB754**

Dear Governor Brown:

As a former city mayor, you must be aware of the high cost of compliance with NPDES Stormwater requirements. These costs will only increase in the future while the ability to raise revenues has been limited by the passage of Proposition 218.

In front of you right now is an opportunity to improve the situation. On behalf of the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program), I am writing to request that you sign AB754. The Program includes the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks, the County of Ventura, and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

AB754 will allow taxpayers to make a contribution to the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account (CBCEA) when filing their state income tax return. These contributions would support the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grants Program which funds programs important to our State's coastal and marine environment. It is one of the few grant programs available for environmental education and coastal conservation such as California Coastal Cleanup Day, an annual volunteer event that brings together thousands of volunteers in Ventura County to pick up trash from local parks, beaches, and waterways. This important event not only educates the public about the widespread issue of trash pollution, but also makes the public part of the solution.

Although the Program has accomplished a great deal over the past 15 years, there is much more to be done. Additional funds from contributions through California tax returns would help to close this gap and would provide Californians who value coastal conservation and education a simple way to support this cause.

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Honorable Jerry Brown
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At a time when our coasts and ocean face increasing risks from climate change, pollution, trash, and other threats; and at a time when many of our stormwater programs are increasingly operating on a shoestring budget, revenue to support coastal and marine education for Californians is vitally important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerhard Hubner", written over a horizontal line.

Gerhardt Hubner, Chair
Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Program

Cc: Ventura County Stormwater Quality Management Committee