

commentletters - Water Quality Enforcement Workshop - 2/20/08

From: "Rick Wilson" <rwilson@surfrider.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 4:03 PM
Subject: Water Quality Enforcement Workshop - 2/20/08

2/19/08 BdWrkshp Item 10
Water Quality Enf. Policy
Deadline: 2/7/08 by 12 p.m.

Dear Ms. Townsend and Board Members:

The Surfrider Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 60 chapters across the United States, 19 of which are in California. At least two of our all-volunteer chapters have benefited from Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

Working with South Coast Water District in Laguna Beach and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, our South Orange County and Laguna Beach Chapters received SEP funds to expand our Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) volunteer water quality testing program at Laguna Beach High School and establish a similar program at Shorecliffs Middle School in San Clemente. BWTF has demonstrated success by educating students about coastal water pollution and what they can do to be part of the solution. The Laguna Beach High School Surfrider Club won an environmental achievement award from Region 9 EPA in 2006.
http://www.surfrider.org/surfriderblog/blogs/shaping_room/archive/2006/04/20/143.aspx

Surfrider Foundation's Huntington Beach/Seal Beach chapter was a beneficiary of a SEP grant to Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI) that provided chapter activists training, equipment and materials for an ongoing 5-year seasonal bacterial study.

We understand that one of the proposed revisions to the Water Quality Enforcement Policy would be to limit, if not eliminate, the Supplemental Environmental Projects for agencies that are fined for penalties or violations. Surfrider Foundation strongly urges you not to eliminate SEPs. They have benefited our organization, the general population, and the coastal environment in California.

Sincerely,

Rick Wilson
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