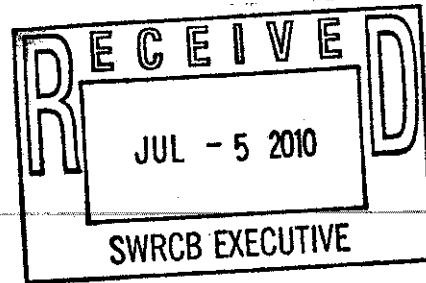


commentletters - Malibu Septic Ban - OPPOSE

From: <Ebhpch@aol.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 7/5/2010 12:16 AM
Subject: Malibu Septic Ban - OPPOSE
CC: <Ebhpch@aol.com>



Dear Ms. Townsend:

Please make the board aware of this email.

I have lived in Malibu for over 30 years and I am very concerned about the proposed ban on septic systems in the Civic Center Area. While I am not directly affected I do not agree with the "sledge hammer" approach the Board is taking with this problem. I would like you to understand why:

There is no question that we must be concerned about the quality of water in Malibu and the water that empties into the ocean. Believe it or not, most of us are. There is no doubt that the community would support enforcement and even inspections of septic systems to make sure they comply with current law. But the Board's approval of a regulation that would lead to a treatment plant with, no doubt, an ocean outfall, leads us down a dangerous path.

Malibu is a unique place that entertains millions of visitors a year. But part of it's uniqueness comes from the fact that it has not allow itself to be developed to the point where it becomes just another Miami Beach. The introduction of a treatment plant would encourage additional development (since there would be increased capacity for wastewater)—something the residents do not want. In addition, with no place to put the treated water, there will no doubt have to be an ocean outfall. As you know, there are frequent cases where a treatment plant is either defective or overtaxed to the point where raw or poorly treated sewage is sent into the ocean through an outfall. It requires the closure of beaches and is a severe blow to local business.

The last time that Malibu threatened with a sewer, it was by the Board of Supervisors who were determined to allow additional development. The result was that Malibu incorporated and stopped the horrendous project.

To be clear, Malibu residents are not against making sure septic systems are operating at peak efficiency and that there be fines levied if they are not. But to ban systems entirely, even efficient ones, can not only cause extreme financial hardships, but can also cause unintended consequences that we have been fighting for years. Please, please help us find another was to solve this problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

E. Barry Haldeman
ebhpch@aol.com
Malibu Resident