



HEAL THE OCEAN

Get Involved!

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

WASTING WASTEWATER

California's increasing drought is dire.

In December 2008 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a Recycled Water Policy for California as part of its 2008-2012 Strategic Plan. This policy gives priority to "Promoting Sustainable Local Water Supplies" and emphasizes the use of not only recycled storm water, but wastewater, too. Managers of wastewater treatment plants throughout California were informed during the summer of 2008 that two of the three main California aquifers are now dry, and that production of recycled water should be included in their operations. Obviously, discharging wastewater into the ocean is now recognized as a waste of an important resource.

In February 2009, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed a 20% drought emergency and requested Californian residents to cut water use.

With less water available, the probability of WasteWater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) being approached by water districts with requests to produce recycled water (for irrigation of golf courses, parks and freeway plantings, etc.) is bound to increase. For years Heal the Ocean has been advocating for the upgrade of WWTP discharge to tertiary treatment levels. In 2001 we commissioned a \$15,000 Metcalf & Eddy study to determine how much it would cost each ratepayer within five sanitary districts discharging into the Pacific Ocean off the Santa Barbara

south coast to upgrade. This current demand and interest in recycled wastewater supports the foundation of our mission, which is to eliminate the use of the ocean as a receptacle for human waste.

To this end, HTO will release the results of our Wastewater Discharge Report (WDR) in August 2009, with the purpose of promoting California's water recycling mandate.

Discharging wastewater into the ocean is now recognized as a waste of an important resource.

Under the directorship of HTO's former science & policy analyst Priya Verma, the WDR is a catalogue of all wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) currently discharging treated sewage into the Pacific Ocean along the entire coast of California. This report, which has taken three years to assemble, is California's very first comprehensive collection of information on the state's wastewater discharges into the ocean. The WDR includes ten years of compliance data that delineate the performance of each wastewater plant according to its permit requirements.

To make the results of this report accessible to policymakers and the public, HTO has contracted with UCSB's Marine Science Institute (MSI) to analyze the WDR data and develop an online interactive map. The

map is being created by MSI scientists David Greenberg and Will McClintock, and will feature the latitude and longitude of discharge, distance of discharge from shore, depth of discharge, and relative locations of 303(d) impaired beaches.

HTO thanks Maria Gordon for coordination between MSI and HTO, and Katherine Engel for compiling all of the permit compliance information from WWTPs along the California coast. HTO has already committed to providing this information to a new foundation whose focus is the preservation of California resources, including the formation of a statewide policy initiative that maximizes water recycling.



UCSB scientist working on Heal the Ocean's study of the Montecito Sanitary District sewer outfall. (Photo by Jeff Maassen)

MONTECITO OUTFALL STUDY

In December 2008, California put a freeze on all Proposition 50 grant funds. This included the funds for Heal the Ocean's two-year study of the Montecito Sanitary District outfall that currently discharges treated effluent into 35 feet of water, 1,500 feet off Butterfly Beach in Montecito, California, Santa Barbara County. HTO was one of the very few non-profit organizations to receive state grant funds, which we believe is due to the revolutionary nature of our "Shallow Ocean Wastewater Outfall Source Tracking" (SOWOST) project.

SOWOST is an important oceanographic/microbiological study aimed at understanding the composition, fate and transport of a buoyant plume discharged in shallow water. Before the funding freeze, our contracted scientists at UCSB, oceanographers Dr. Libe Washburn and Dr. Carter Ohlmann, and microbiologist Dr. Trish Holden had completed a full year of fieldwork collecting ocean current and stratification data, and water samples. What remained to be completed was the processing and analyses of these data, including the water samples for DNA and bacteriological information.

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AROUND THE OFFICE, INSIDE THE BOARD...



Stephanie Mutz



Katherine Engel



Jane Maassen



Thomas Dabney



Kelly Smith

Changes have been taking place in the HTO office! We're pleased to announce that after working for Heal the Ocean for four years as Science & Policy Analyst, **Priya Verma** has returned to UCSB full time to complete her doctorate. Some of Priya's accomplishments while with HTO include: navigating us through the stormy waters of storm water permits for the county of Santa Barbara; discovering a Class II unlined landfill on the Santa Barbara waterfront; taking on the gigantic multi-year Wastewater Discharge Report (WDR) project (see page 1 of this newsletter); and writing us a successful Proposition 50 grant to study the Montecito Sanitary District outfall (also on page 1). We wish Priya the best of luck in the future.

Stephanie Mutz has now joined our team to take on the science & policy work. She is a diver, surfer and a biologist, who, after receiving her Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology from UCSB, went to Australia to further her studies. She received her Masters of Science from the School of Marine and Tropical Biology at James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland. Stephanie lectures on the biology of fishes, and also on general and cellular biology. She is also a research coordinator for the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc. (CFSB). We are thrilled to have her with us!

Maria Gordon has taken on the management of our Wastewater Discharge Report (WDR), which includes coordinating with the UCSB Marine Science Institute for internet mapping and analysis of our data on California's wastewater discharges into the Pacific Ocean. For the past six years, Maria has been a program manager at UCSB's Bren School where she also works as an editor/editorial consultant for academic and professional research papers.

Katherine Engel is working with Maria on our WDR report, gathering NPDES permits from all of California's wastewater plants and researching the exceedances and/or violations from each facility. She is an undergraduate in environmental studies at UCSB.

We are thrilled that **Jane Maassen** has officially joined HTO as Development Director...and we say "official" because Jane and the entire Maassen family – **Jeff, Morgan and Graham** – have been helping HTO from the very beginning, when the newsletters were labeled and stamped in the Maassen's living room and Jeff, with Executive Director **Hillary Hauser**, were diving and videoing the sewer outfalls off Santa Barbara and unofficially touring the Tajiguas Landfill.

Finally, the **HTO Board of Directors** is proud to have **Thomas Dabney** join us as a director in May, 2008. A native Santa Barbarian and lobster fisherman with deep appreciation for the ocean and all it affords, Thomas comes to us with valuable directorial experience as a long time board member of his family foundations. HTO is also gratified to have **Kelly Smith** on board as of October 2008. Kelly Smith is Managing Principal of Certis Capital Management in Santa Barbara, and was unanimously voted in as HTO's Treasurer to replace **Ned Doubleday** who is living abroad for two years in France.



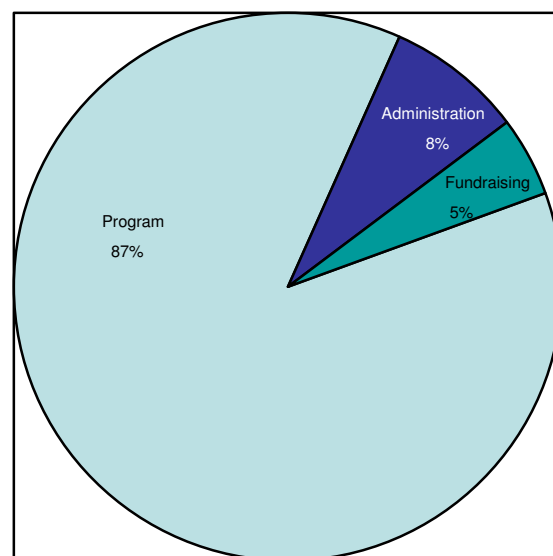
WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO

A full 87% of HTO donations go directly to the work of cleaning up our ocean. Because of your generosity, we have been able to pay for:

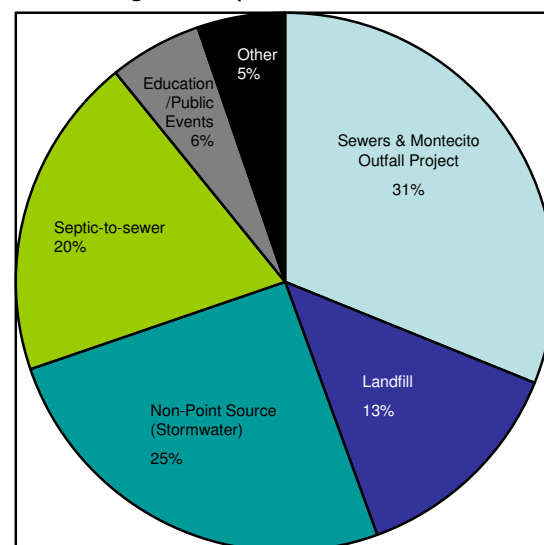
UCSB Marine Science Institute California sewer outfall mapping & analysis, DNA testing of ocean water samples, Virus testing of ocean water samples, Coast Law Group: Strategy/CEQA advice, Grant writer, Researchers, Sewer engineers.



Expenses



Program Expenses Breakdown



Per 2007 audit by MacFarlane, Faletti & Co. LLP, Santa Barbara, California

Front/Back Cover Photo by Stephanie Mutz

HEAL THE OCEAN SPRING 2009

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HI FROM HILLARY



Photo by Morgan Maassen

During these uncertain and changing economic times, many of us working on environmental issues are proceeding with caution and introspection: Can people reasonably afford what we're asking for? With the economy in jeopardy, is it appropriate for us to be asking for more funds to improve wastewater infrastructure? Is ocean water quality really important when your 401k is worth half what it was a year ago? Economy or the Environment – is it one or the other?

At Heal the Ocean (HTO), we strongly believe that good economic and environmental practices are not mutually exclusive. We affirm that protecting and respecting the environment will save us fiscally in the long run while at the same time improving our quality of life.

HTO has always carefully considered the costs involved in our mission. However, with the current economic situation, we find ourselves thinking more about the costs of not proceeding...the costs to the future for each and every one of us. Carl Sagan said, "Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water...Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet."

We are taking into consideration new environmental facts and situations that have not arisen to such a degree before. One of these is the increasing evidence that the earth is running out of fresh water – with California near the top of the list. While HTO has been working on an assessment of wastewater discharge along the California coast, in the end, the issue may not be about pollution – it may be about wasting a valuable resource. We may need recycled water to reduce our current demands on fresh drinking water that is still being used for irrigation and flushing toilets.

For wastewater plants to upgrade their facilities to produce recycled water is a concept HTO has been in support of for many years. Facility upgrade is the reason we funded a cost/feasibility study that revealed the economics of wastewater treatment upgrades. In some situations, the cost per home for an upgrade would have almost doubled the monthly sewer bill, a daunting fact – until you consider the original cost was, or still is, less

than \$20 per month. When compared to the cost of other utility bills – electricity, gas, cable service – the average household cost for improved wastewater treatment, even if doubled in price, would still be less expensive than these other utilities. Is it any less important? At the end of the day, the monthly cost of improved wastewater treatment could afford us the continuity of water we are fortunate enough to have today.

So as we move through economic hurdles we have to contemplate the value of clean water in every way. Recognizing the value of clean ocean water is exactly what the proponents of the Rincon septic-to-sewer project did when they voted to abandon their septic systems. Septic systems in areas of high groundwater and/or the beach are not acceptable, and after a long ten year battle, opposing sides in the Rincon community made peace and a new wastewater infrastructure was agreed upon. The majority of homeowners agreed that the project is worth the cost in order to ensure the sustainable health of our ocean in the future.

We all know that fresh clean water is vital to our health and to our quality of life. Benjamin Franklin said, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." We do not want to reach that point and clearly, we do not need to. We have options and choices to explore and focus on. At Heal the Ocean, we will continue our mission to the fullest, because we recognize a healthy environment to be the wealth of the future.

Thank you for helping,



Hillary Hauser

Call for E-Mail addresses

If you would like to receive electronic notices from HTO about upcoming events, please e-mail your e-mail address to us: jane@healtheocean.org. In particular, please let us know if you are interested in being added to our invitation list for our spectacular Annual Benefit Concert on September 26, 2009! Thank you!

RINCON SEWER PROJECT FUNDED

Legal challenges to the Rincon portion of the South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer project were settled in July 2008, with opposing sides finally agreeing to lay down their swords, move ahead with the project, and to begin healing the rifts in the Rincon community.

The sewer project includes Sandyland, Sand Point and Padaro Lane as well as Rincon, with the dissension toward the project isolated to the Rincon portion of the plan. Heal the Ocean thanks Fred Woocher of Strumwasser & Woocher, Santa Monica, and Aparna Sridhar for helping us bring the legal issues to a peaceful and successful close!

Financing for the sewer project comes from assessments paid by homeowners either through a direct, up-front payment or through long term bond financing. The Carpinteria Sanitary District completed the bond issuance on behalf of the property owners at the beginning of March 2009.

The remaining steps for the building of the South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer project will begin in April 2009. The Sandyland Cove and Sand Point Road projects, which are less complex than Rincon Point, are expected to be complete before the summer of 2010. The Rincon Point project timeline, and the implementation steps, are outlined below:

Project Final Design and Permitting	12-15 months
Bidding, contracting	2 months
Project Construction	9 months
Construct homeowner's facilities	2 months
Sewer project complete, service provided	early 2011

This is a rough schedule, as there are many variables in play, but if the permitting phase goes smoothly, it's possible that an early finish could be a Christmas present to us all in 2010 – next year!



Fred Woocher, we thank you!

Public sewer service was extended to about a dozen homes on Padaro Lane in late 2008. Homeowners there decided to expedite conversion from septic to sewer and paid for design and construction directly, then dedicated the lines to the Carpinteria Sanitary District. Thanks to those individuals for taking this important step!

HTO thanks the Carpinteria Sanitary District Board of Directors, and CSD manager Craig Murray, for hanging in there with this project, and we thank everyone who has worked so hard with us on this ten-year campaign. We believe the removal of septic systems from this seven-mile stretch of beach will provide an enormous physical change that will have a direct effect on ocean water quality.

See Rincon Timeline for full history of this historic campaign.



Rincon... 10 Years Later...

RINCON TIMELINE

Updated April 2009

Pre-August 1998: CURE (Clean Up Rincon Effluent) circulates petition among surfers complaining about getting sick after surfing at the Rincon, to present to SB County.

August 1998: Heal the Ocean forms.

October 1998: HTO initiates DNA testing of Rincon Lagoon, gets Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services to collaborate (HTO funds \$23,500 lab work; EHS pays \$12,500 and performs in-field collection). Results show human fecal bacteria in the lagoon.

November 1998-February 1999: HTO coordinates Rincon homeowner association meetings to explain hookup to Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD), researches low-interest loans, introduces septic-to-sewer concept to Sandyland, Sand Point Road, Padaro Lane and Beach Club Road, a total of 175 homes.

March 1999: HTO writes \$9,000 check for sewer engineering study for Rincon; paid for by Surfers of the Rincon Clean Water Classic, CURE, Surf rider, Santa Barbara County's Project Clean Water, the Rincon homeowner association, and HTO. Funding help comes from Patagonia.

August 1999: Assemblyperson Hannah-Beth Jackson tours Rincon, goes back to Sacramento and authors Assembly Bill 885 to regulate septic systems throughout California, and secures \$2 million for S.B. County to combat septic system pollution problems.

August 2000: Price of sewer comes in at \$2.9 million, Rincon homeowners vote to level their homes; 74% vote in favor of the project (51% needed to pass). Total price includes \$425,000 for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required for the project. Five Rincon homeowners sue to stop the project because EIR has to be performed before vote is taken. "Catch 22" emerges:

such projects can't be done without EIR, yet there are no funds for an EIR until homes are levied.

September 2000: CSD withdraws project. CSD manager John Miko (now deceased) locates state grant source for \$425,000 EIR.

March 2001: HTO begins lobbying for grant application to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

September 2001: "South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer" grant is awarded as "number one priority" by SWRCB.

January 21, 2003: EIR work begins for Rincon, Sandyland, Sand Point, Padaro Lane and Beach Club Road projects.

March 2004: CSD certifies EIR.

December 2004: Three Rincon homeowners file suit vs. EIR certification and the project. HTO hires Marco Gonzalez of Coast Law Group, HTO forms Indemnity Fund to pay CSD's legal expenses, with fund financed by homeowners in the sewer project areas, HTO board members, singer Jack Johnson, surfers of the Rincon Clean Water Classic, and other supporters.

February 2005: Santa Barbara superior court throws out oppositions' complaint as "unintelligible." Complaint is revised and refilled.

May 2005: Oppositions revised lawsuit is thrown out of court as "unripe," because no sewer project has been approved by CSD.

June 2005: HTO establishes \$48K Supplemental EIR fund, to have additional planning work done on Rincon portion of project before CSD approves project.

October 2005: Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) passes Resolution supporting sewer

project. Updated engineering starts on all communities in project (paid for by Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services, which also funds annexation and assessment engineering).

July 2006: Supplemental EIR (SEIR) work completed on Rincon part of project; 30-day public circulation begins.

September 19, 2006: CSD approval of the SEIR.

October 2006: Assessment & Annexation engineering begins for all communities within project.

August 2007: 45-day balloting begins of homeowners within project areas.

August 2, 2007: SB Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) unanimously approves South Coast Annexation to the Carpinteria Sanitary District, opens protest vote period.

October 9, 2007: LAFCO protest hearing held.

October 16, 2007: Homeowner vote announced: Total For: 65.6%; Total Against, 34.4% (Rincon, Total For, 56.9%; Total Against, 43.1%); 90% of all properties voted.

November 1, 2007: LAFCO voids results of October 9, 2007 protest period due to improper noticing in the media. Schedules another protest vote & hearing for December 3, 2007.

December 7, 2007: RWQCB passes Resolution of Appreciation for the South Coast Beach Communities Septic to Sewer Project Proponents, including HTO, Surfers of the Rincon Clean Water Classic, CURE, Surf rider Foundation, SB County Project Clean Water, and the Rincon Homeowners Association.

January 11, 2008: Results of December 3, 2007 protest vote announced. Greater than 25% of regis-

tered voters within proposed annexation area voted No to annexation, (36%), requiring a confirmation election. 51% of registered voters within annexation area must now vote in favor of annexation for project to proceed, a voting process run by CSD.

April 22, 2008: CSD runs Mail-In ballot confirmation election for Annexation. HTO hires Santa Monica elections lawyer Fred Woocher to help sort out possible illegal registration/voting. Final vote is 73-59 in favor of Annexation; this tally does not include 19 ballots (on Ventura side of Rincon) challenged by HTO.

May 9, 2008: Ventura County Counsel rules on 19 challenges (all against annexation), allows 7 votes to stand, discounts 12 votes, Final vote is 85-66 For.

June 12, 2008: Some Rincon residents on Ventura County side file lawsuit, entering challenges against a list of "For" votes.

July, 2008: Case goes to trial in Ventura Superior Court, both sides settle, the South Coast Beach Communities septic-to-sewer project is free to move forward.

Early March, 2009: Project funding complete through owner up-front assessment payment and municipal bond sale. CSD project team formed to carry out project.

Next Steps: CSD moves forward with Project Final Design & Permitting, followed by Bidding and Contracting procedure, and finally Project Construction, estimated to take 9 months and completed early 2011.

The implementation timeline provided above may differ for each individual community. Permitting, right of way acquisition, and construction impediments could add time to the overall schedule.

A LETTER FROM MARK GOLD, *President of Heal the Bay*

In honor of HTO's 10th anniversary, Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, wrote the following:

Over a decade ago, I received a phone call from Hillary on her idea to create Heal the Ocean. My first impression of Hillary was that this was a person that needed to cut back on caffeine. After that, I was struck by the fact that Hillary had incredible passion for coastal protection, extensive knowledge of ocean pollution issues, and she knew everyone in town.

Hillary asked me to come to a meeting on runoff pollution in Santa Barbara and I reluctantly came up. There was an SRO crowd of over 300 people making their voices heard that

they were sick and tired of pollution along Santa Barbara's idyllic coastline. I was convinced, and I was hooked. Since then, Hillary has become a good friend, and one of the few people I know that enjoys talk about sewage during meals.

Over the last decade, Heal the Ocean has led a number of source-identification studies that has led to cleaning up some of Santa Barbara's most polluted beaches. HTO worked with Heal the Bay and former Assemblyperson Hannah-Beth Jackson to get Assembly Bill 885 on the road – to set design, construction and performance standards for septic systems in California. HTO led the fight to push the Goleta sewage treatment plant to join the 21st

century, by upgrading to full secondary treatment. And last but not least, HTO worked tirelessly in the community, in hearing rooms, and through fundraising to win the battle of cleaning up the world-famous Rincon. That epic battle has just been won, and these homes on septic systems will soon be sewerred, thereby reducing health risks to surfers at Rincon. I wish the same thing would happen at our own Malibu Surfrider Beach. Rincon is truly a great example for all environmental groups to learn from.

I extend thanks to ALL the Rincon homeowners who helped and held out through this fierce battle at the Rincon.



THE RINCON SEWER PROJECT



Rincon Point, Original art by Peggy Oki

www.RinconPointSewer.com

This site was created by several Rincon Point homeowners with the goal of developing an objective forum to discuss the ongoing sewer project. The site will host an ongoing conversation through which homeowners and others with valuable knowledge can work together. As the project progresses, everyone can post information (Q & A's) to inform the collective knowledge of the community and ensure that the sewer project gets completed at/or under budget. It is our goal to encourage an agreeable location for sewer equipment (such as the pump stations) as well as to minimize landscape damage.

We hope to have outside knowledge contributing to this site as well. Information from people that have worked on similar projects should help us understand what to expect – good or bad

If you have a question you want answered, this is the place to ask! Simply use the "Contact" link to send your questions or comments. We may not have all the answers, but if you ask your question, we will make sure to get the answer one way or another. We will then share that knowledge by posting it on the "Questions" page of this site – so that we can all benefit.

If you have anything you would like to submit to the site, please use the "Contact" page or submit any photos or attachments to info@rinconpointsewer.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .



ON SCHEDULE: GOLETA SANITARY UPGRADE

On January 29, 2009, the Goleta Sanitary District submitted applications to the California Coastal Commission as well as Santa Barbara County Planning & Development for all necessary permits for the upgrade of its wastewater treatment plant to full secondary treatment level.

The permit applications are another step in GSD's conversion schedule established in GSD's November 2004 settlement agreement with Heal the Ocean and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). In 2002, HTO defeated GSD's application for another five-year 301(h) waiver, which would have allowed the wastewater plant to continue discharging a blend of primary and secondary-treated sewage into the ocean off Goleta Beach. It took us two full years of legal work, and we were able to overturn GSD's appeal of the secondary upgrade ruling at the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento.

HTO continues to receive copies of GSD's compliance paperwork to the Regional Board, and we are pleased to see that the District has been meeting every deadline in its ten-year program for upgrade.

In June 2008 there was a slight wrinkle in the conversion schedule, but even so, the District has informed the Regional Board that it will still meet the deadline of November 1, 2014 for full compliance with secondary requirements.

After circulating a draft CEQA document in June 2008, the District learned more extensive archaeological studies are needed, necessitating an Environmental Impact Report instead of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. This delayed

the scheduled certification of the Final CEQA document, due on January 31, 2009.

We will be expecting the certification of the final CEQA document soon, and by November 2009, it will have completed 60% of its design. We commend the District for moving right along with the upgrade – we are only five years away from a significant physical change for the ocean!



GSD CONVERSION SCHEDULE

A. Preliminary Activities	Date of Completion	D. Financing	Date of Completion
1. Submittal of Detailed Conversion Plan and Timeline to Owners of Capacity in District's Plant	1/1/05	1. Complete Draft Plan for Project Design and Construction Financing	1/30/07
2. Coordination of Conversion Concepts w/Owners of Capacity in District's Plant	6/30/05	2. Complete Final Plan for Project Design	3/31/08
3. Send Requests for Environmental and Consulting Engineering Proposals	12/31/05	3. Submit Proof that all Necessary Construction Financing has been Secured, incl./Compliance with Proposition 218	12/31/10
4. Award of Environmental and Consulting Engineering Contracts	6/30/06	E. Design and Construction	
B. Facilities Planning		1. Initiate Design	6/30/08
1. Complete Draft Facilities Plan	12/31/06	2. 30% Design	12/31/08
2. Complete Final Facilities Plan	6/30/08	3. 60% Design	11/30/09
C. Environmental Review and Permitting		4. 90% Design	3/31/10
1. Complete and Circulate Draft CEQA Document	6/30/08	5. 100% Design	9/30/10
2. Certify Final CEQA Document	1/31/09	6. Issue Notice to Proceed to Contractor	4/30/11
3. Submit Applications for all Necessary Permits	1/31/09	7. Construction Progress Reports	Quarterly
4. Obtain all Necessary Permits	1/31/11	8. Complete Construction and Commence Debugging and Startup	4/30/14
		9. Full Compliance w/Secondary Requirements	11/1/14

OTHER BUSINESS...

HTO continues its investigation of the **Old Class II landfill** along the Santa Barbara waterfront. Occupying 120 acres, this is an unlined landfill that drains into gutters and curbing, storm drains and ditches. While studying and mapping the area, HTO discovered that the City of Santa Barbara had not been filing the required monitoring reports with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Now, under orders from the RWQCB, the city has submitted to the Regional Board a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) that we are in the process of reviewing...The **Bird Refuge in Montecito** is also getting HTO scrutiny due to its runoff to East Beach, and also its discharge through the sand berms on the beach. We will be meeting with Santa Barbara city officials to discuss a plan for addressing the problems of eutrophication, fish kills and odor, and exploring with them the possibility of establishing a better, cleaner flow between lake and ocean...The long-awaited U.S. Geological Survey report "**Forces of Fecal Indicator Bacteria in Urban Streams and Ocean Beaches, Santa Barbara, California**" has finally finished scientific review and is on its way to the printer! The focus of the USGS study is the shallow groundwater beneath the city of Santa Barbara and around Mission Creek. HTO contributed \$70,000 to project costs by raising grant funds and is contributing to the cost of publication...HTO's new science & policy analyst Stephanie Mutz continues to monitor the finalization of **storm water plans for Santa Maria, Lompoc, Goleta, Carpinteria, Buellton, Solvang and Vandenberg AFB**...We are also keeping a close eye on the attempt of the **City of Goleta to take over the Goleta West Sanitary District** – including all the funds GWSD has saved to pay its 40% share for the upgrade of the Goleta Sanitary District to full secondary treatment levels...In October 2008, when California froze funds for **AB 411 water quality monitoring** at popular beaches throughout the state, HTO joined a coalition of California NGOs to lobby for the successful reinstatement of those funds so that monitoring can resume in "AB 411 months" (April-November). We are continuing to watch and lobby as this funding hangs by a thread...HTO is involved in the finalization of a California's special protection policy for **Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs)**, and specifically we are objecting to sewer outfalls discharging secondary-treated wastewater directly into or near an ASBS – Shelter Cove, Half Moon Bay, Monterey Regional, Carmel/Pebble Beach, Ragged Point Inn, and San Simeon...We commend the City of Santa Barbara for continuing to fund its **Sewer Lateral Inspection Program (SLIP)**, which gives financial incentives to homeowners to have their sewer laterals inspected and repaired. The City pays up to \$150 per property when they are provided a videotape and inspection report by a qualified inspector and the City review certifies that the lateral is in good shape. The SLIP fund also pays up to \$2,000 per property for repair or replacement of a lateral. HTO began lobbying the City for a sewer lateral ordinance in 2004, and the SLIP program is a satisfying outcome.



HTO STORM TROOPERS

Heal the Ocean is pleased to have an excellent relationship with Santa Barbara Creeks Division, and when we see a cluttered and filthy storm drain or a creek full of trash, all we have to do is make the call, and the city cleanup crew is at the site in a matter of hours, cleaning it up.

Therefore we are always more than happy to receive the help of local students who might be looking for community service hours by calling us for a "Storm Troopers" assignment. This involves some scouting, simple inspections, photographing the location and debris; and then e-mailing them to us along with a simple report. Once we receive the reports, we call the city with the locations for cleanup.

We thank Cody Traxler, a college student, for organizing a crew (Chelsea, Kayla, Gaby, Trevor and Tavaris) who went out and made a photographic survey of some local storm drains. Not only did they report back to us, they gave a presentation in their class at Santa Barbara City College.

Mckenna Hogue, a Middle School student, also went out on a photographic expedition at the end of February," wanting to find trash to report, but happily there was none to be found." Mckenna took photos of Mission Creek, the Bird Refuge creek on East Beach, and San Ysidro Creek.

Our members and community service hour students are a wonderful resource for helping us keep our oceans clean. If this is something you would like to participate in, or if there are areas you feel we should be concentrating on, please contact us at our office (965-6570) or e-mail us at any time.



*Above:
Cody Traxler and
friends inspecting a
storm drain*



*Right:
A fully loaded
storm drain*

SEPTIC PROBLEMS TACKLED

When HTO formed in 1998, we went to work on identifying all the septic "cluster" areas in Santa Barbara County that threaten the quality of our groundwater, creeks and the ocean. When former assembly-woman Hannah-Beth Jackson brought \$2 million of state funds into Santa Barbara County for septic-to-sewer work and septic management during fiscal year 2000-2001, HTO joined forces with Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS), administrator of the funds, to create a list of projects we both agreed on.

One of the first expenditures from the "HBJ funds" was \$250,000 to **Questa Engineering Corporation for the Septic System Sanitary Survey for Santa Barbara County**. Finished in March 2003, this survey became the ultimate blueprint for septic system work, because it identified areas in both north and south counties that are unsuitable for septic systems due to high groundwater, poor soils, aging systems, proximity to 303(d) impaired water bodies, creeks and ocean.

Some funds were spent on annexation and assessment engineering reports for the **South Coast Beach Communities (Rincon) Septic-to-Sewer Project**, and sewer engineering reports have been generated for other areas including the **Eucalyptus Hill/Barker Pass area** in Montecito.

We thank EHS director Rick Merrifield for his excellent leadership in administering these funds during the county's fiscal year 2008-2009. Funds were directed as follows:

\$25,000: The Montecito Sanitary District (MSD) to pay a part of a cost/feasibility study for sewer extension to 11 homes off East Valley Road, whose owners requested help in converting from septic to sewer. In February 2009, the homeowners received a cost estimate from MSD

for a proposed **East Valley Road Private Lane Sewer Main Extension**, and MSD will advertise for engineering bids upon receiving signed agreements from the homeowners indicating willingness to participate.

\$59,000: The City of Santa Barbara for a feasibility report for the **West End Sewer Master Plan**, which will provide costs for septic-to-sewer projects for four "pocket" areas in the city that have proven to be precarious for septic systems: Veronica Springs, Northview Road & Vista Vallejo, Sunset Road & Fairfax Road, and Calle Cita/Carol Avenue/Russell Way. The engineering report, by Penfield & Smith, will be completed by June, 2009.

\$90,000: Los Olivos Wastewater Management Plan. A contract was awarded to MNS Engineers, Inc. for a wastewater management plan for treatment and disposal alternatives for the business area of Los Olivos, with an emphasis on the downtown corridor. The groundwater beneath the downtown corridor is shallow, and drains to Alamo Pintado Creek (which drains into the Santa Ynez River, listed by EPA as 303(d) impaired for nitrates). The engineering report will include water quality elements as well as alternative, advance technologies for collection and is expected to be finished by December 31, 2009.

For fiscal year 2009-2010, beginning in July 2009, EHS plans to spend \$150,000 on wastewater management projects. EHS has guaranteed HTO that \$70,000 is (thankfully) dedicated to begin the preliminary engineering design for a **Septage Treatment Facility** in the Santa Barbara south county. We have been requesting this study for a long time. A pre-treatment facility is crucial due to the heavily concentrated septic waste that necessitates haulers to take pumped material to Ventura or Santa Maria for disposal. The full report is expected to cost \$250,000, to be covered by HBJ funds during the following fiscal year.

HEAL THE OCEAN 4TH ANNUAL CONCERT...A GIANT SUCCESS!!

Our 4th Annual
Benefit Concert
A Rip-Roaring
Success Again!



Photos by: Morgan Maassen

The old oak tree

was the center of attention as more than 350 guests arrived at Hal & Mary Coffin's fabulous Montecito Valley Ranch for Heal the Ocean's 4th annual Benefit Concert on August 28, 2008... This was a particularly special evening as it was HTO's 10th anniversary celebration and the long septic-to-sewer Rincon battle had finally just been won...As guests took their seats at elegant tables set in casual intimacy near the old oak tree, **Jack Johnson** and **Zach Gill** began to have fun in their fabulous

FANTASTICALLY GRAND RE-OPENING OF CORAL CASINO BENEFITS HTO....



Bright Fountains in the Coral Casino Pool

Ohhhh, what a night!...that started when we arrived at the newly remodeled Coral Casino Beach & Cabana Club in Montecito during the evening of September 25, 2008...to walk a white carpet into magic-land...The magnificent Olympic-sized Coral Casino pool had been outfitted with a fountain of color at the ocean end and a "T"-shaped stage at the other...And on this stage an orchestra played as elegant models glided out in fabulous Louis Vuitton creations...Among the 400 guests were celebrities, stars and local dignitaries such as comedian **Dennis Miller**, racecar legend **Andy Granatelli**, actor **Christopher Lloyd**, comedienne **Carol Burnett**, actress **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** — fresh off Wednesday's season premiere of her show *The New Adventures of Old Christine* — and Louis-Dreyfus's husband, writer **Brad Hall**, reality TV star **Jason Wahler** (*Laguna Beach*), and actor **Cole Hauser** (*The Family that Preys*)...The evening was emceed by **Andrew Firestone**, who introduced the crowd to HTO executive director **Hillary Hauser**, and announced that the evening was to benefit Heal the Ocean...HTO received a hefty percentage of the price of admission to this grand gala, and also all of the proceeds from a fabulous silent auction that included a hand-carved coral fish

...AND TO DANCE!... — to sing, and congratulate...



*Don't miss out on
The next
Heal the Ocean
Benefit Concert – on
September 26, 2009!*

Photos L to R:

*The scene: Montecito
Valley Ranch*

*Jack & Kim Johnson with
Hillary Hauser*

Julia-Louis-Dreyfus

*Heal the Bay president
Mark Gold, Jean-Michel-
Cousteau & HTO
co-founder Jeff Young*

Paula Fuga

*Culver City Dub &
Paula Fuga*

Jack Johnson & Zach Gill

musical way with words and song, acoustic guitar, and keyboards, and “Gone, Going, Gone”...Our wonderfully funny hostess **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** initiated the new adventure of the evening by “paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln”...“do not let the enemy beguile you...into thinking septic systems near the beach are a good idea!”...“This is my very favorite party!” she chirped...and we believe her, because it is ours too... Executive Director **Hillary Hauser** then introduced friends who are dear to the heart of HTO – **Jean-Michel Cousteau**, who gave HTO his 501c3 non-profit status when the organization was first formed; **Mark Gold**, president of Heal the Bay, Santa Monica; HTO co-founder **Jeff Young**; and then **Fred Woocher**, the Santa Monica elections lawyer who had just won and settled the Rincon sewer project lawsuit was presented certificates of appreciation from Santa Barbara and

Ventura counties by Santa Barbara County Supervisor **Salud Carbajal**. The evening continued with **Morgan Maassen**, a rising star among filmmakers, presenting his short film made for Heal the Ocean followed by our well-known and beloved filmmaker **Mike deGruy**, who conducted a very successful live auction filled with paintings, destinations and cruises...fast-moving and witty **Brad Hall** wrapped it up with a rousing “Ask,” and then...the finale...MUSIC! The beautifully talented **Paula Fuga** and **Culver City Dub**, a rock-out combo from Jack’s world tour had everyone on their feet instantly...and as we danced the night away we reflected upon how fortunate we were that these musicians took the time to be with us as they were going through town at the very end of their tour...It was an evening of love – for each other and for the ocean. Thank you, one and all!



*The scene: the newly remodeled
Coral Casino – lights & glamorous
models in Louis Vuitton creations*



Brad Hall, Hillary Hauser & Julia Louis-Dreyfus

pendant with diamond waves accent by **Silverhorn**, a commemorative painting by **Emiliano Campobello**, a three-piece Louis Vuitton travel set, two nights in an executive suite at Four Seasons Hotel New York, and four nights in a two-bedroom suite at Las Ventanas in Los Cabos!....All in all, this glittery, magical evening raised \$57,000 for Heal the Ocean! We are deeply grateful to **Ty Warner** and all the wonderful people at Ty Warner Hotels & Resorts who staged this fabulous evening for us – including **Erinn Lynch & Jenna Fox & Greg Rice**....**thank you, thank you, thank you!** And a big thanks to all those who attended this wonderful event – you have helped us immensely!



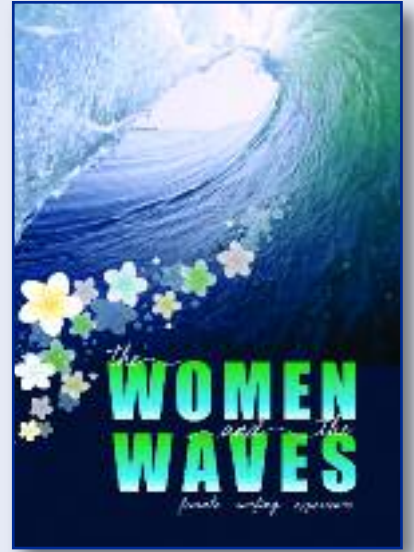
Photos courtesy of Ty Warner Hotels and Resorts

THANK YOU, FUNDRAISERS!

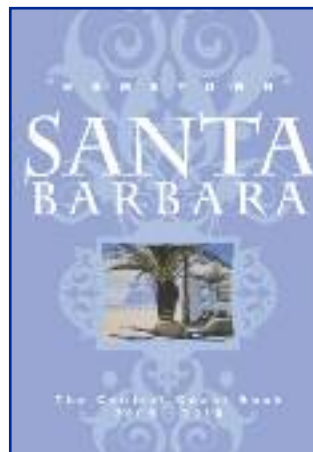
We love the originality that goes into the fundraising events that our wonderful members put together, sometimes without our knowing – until the last minute – that they're even cooking up such plans. (We will never forget **Vivi & Romeo Hodges** scrambling around the outskirts of the Montecito Country Club to find golf balls, which they sold at their roadside stand to raise money for HTO!)...Thank you, **Sotheby's International Realty**, for choosing HTO in February 2009 as one of four local non-profits that will receive a portion of closed escrows for a year...!Thank you **Michele Wilder Boutique** for your great "Goddess Night" fashion show in June, 2008 (and to **Heidi**, thanks for the offer of a pedicure for executive director Hillary Hauser, whose feet are covered in beach tar)...Hooray for **Kendall Conrad**, who hosted a fabulous Christmas boutique sale at her Montecito home in December 2008, with Los Angeles designers and jewelry makers selling their fabulous items alongside Kendall's leather creations to benefit HTO!... **Hometown Santa Barbara**, a book published by Prospect Park Books, Pasadena, CA., featured Heal the Ocean in a Q&A section of the book, and on November 7, 2008, **Sullivan Goss Arts & Letters Café** had a book release party, honoring HTO executive director Hillary Hauser, and gave HTO a portion of proceeds from the sale of the book. Thank you, **Colleen Dunn Bates** for writing us up and arranging this!...Thank you, **Karen Bezuidenhout** for opening your beautiful home for a trunk show of various artists, including yourself, putting up for sale wonderful creations to benefit us!...How wonderful is the **Community Angels Network**, a group of Santa Barbara women who invite a representative of a non-profit group to one of their homes, once a month, to hear about the group's work and then donate to them individually, thank you for choosing us!...We thank **Emilio Casanueva** and the **Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association**, who on September 12 & 13, 2008, held their 5th Annual Big Swim to benefit HTO as well as the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation! Forty brave swimmers, accompanied by several kayakers, swam 26 miles from Santa Cruz Island to Goleta Beach Park...wow!...We thank **FLIR Corporation** in Goleta, and always, Patagonia, for their continued employee matching programs...Last but not least, we thank **Jack and Kim Johnson** for establishing their **All At Once Foundation**, which benefited HTO and so many other environmental groups around the world who participated in The Village Green gatherings at each of Jack's world tour stops – including UCSB in August, 2008, where HTO set up a booth along with many other non-profits. Mahalo, one and all! ☀

THE WOMEN AND THE WAVES BENEFITS HTO

"The Women and the Waves," a very neat film made by Heather Hudson (Graciegirl LLC) and Peck Euwer (Swell Pictures, Inc.) was shown on April 9, 2009 at the Marjorie Luke Theater in Santa Barbara, in a great benefit for HTO! The film, which premiered a few months earlier at the prestigious Santa Barbara International Film Festival, features ten extraordinary women surfers zipping their way through swells of Mexico, Hawaii and along the California coastline. Congratulations Heather and Peck! (And thanks go to both of you for being such great HTO supporters all year long)! Thanks also to all the generous surfboard shapers who donated surfboards to a super-great raffle for this event!



www.womenandthewaves.com



The book *Hometown Santa Barbara* features Heal the Ocean



Benefit Heal the Ocean in the Inaugural Santa Barbara International Marathon event December 4-6, 2009 www.sbimathon.com

HTO HONORED & IN THE NEWS....

The **Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network** has honored Heal the Ocean with a Wildlife Sanctuary Award, given during its 13th annual Wildlife Sanctuary Awards Luncheon on April 5, 2009 at the Four Seasons Biltmore in Santa Barbara....Heal the Ocean hats were given out by **Ty Warner Hotels & Resorts (TWHR)** to the many people attending the May 31, 2008 ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the Butterfly Beach stairs built for the public by TWHR...**Santa Barbara Magazine** April/May 2008 "Green Scene" issue featured HTO co-founder/executive director Hillary Hauser in a full page spread as "The Siren" of Santa Barbara's environmental leaders, which also included ocean explorer **Jean-Michel**

Cousteau (who is also an HTO board member); filmmaker **Mike deGruy**, who is on HTO's advisory board, and UCSB Marine Science Institute director **Steve Gaines**, who is leading the internet mapping team for HTO's Wastewater Discharge Report...HTO director Hillary Hauser was also featured in the backpage "Cheers!" section of **Destination Wine Country** in its Spring 2008 Green Issue....and Hillary was also featured together with **Julia-Louis Dreyfus** and husband **Brad Hall**, and comedian **Dennis Miller** in the inaugural (winter/spring 2008/2009) hardcover issue of **Montecito Journal** for its full-page coverage of

ORIGINS OF HEAL THE OCEAN

Heal the Ocean started in August 1998 following the publication of a Santa Barbara News-Press editorial by Hillary Hauser. Read this "Genesis" article on our website www.HealTheOcean.org.

the Ty Warner Hotels & Resorts Coral Casino gala opening (the proceeds of which benefited HTO) held on September 25, 2008...We so appreciate it when HTO is publicized by such wonderful periodicals, books and organizations. We thank you all!



HEAL THE OCEAN'S LIBRARY

On our website we have posted a number of reports and studies we've commissioned over the years, and a quick review reveals how "ahead of our time" we have been in our strategy to eliminate major sources of ocean pollution.

Water Reclamation Research

During the spring of 2000, Heal the Ocean retained graduate students from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB to conduct a research project on the use of reclaimed water on the Santa Barbara County south coast. The purpose of the research was to study the feasibility of upgrading all secondary treatment wastewater plants to tertiary treatment while expanding the uses of reclaimed water within the south coast area. This report, which was finalized by Ian Adams of UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, was conducted in cooperation with all of the managers of the five wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) operating on the south coast – Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito, the City of Santa Barbara (El Estero), Goleta and Goleta West.

At that time, and still today, the only wastewater plants producing reclaimed water for use on freeway plantings, parks, golf courses, etc., are Goleta Sanitary District and the City of Santa Barbara. Reclaimed water is still more expensive than tap (drinking) water – but with California's severe drought situation, HTO believes this will change.

Cost of Tertiary Wastewater Treatment for Santa Barbara

In 2001, to find out what it would cost ratepayers to upgrade sewage treatment to full tertiary levels - that's irrigation water quality – HTO commissioned the engineering firm of Metcalf & Eddy, San Diego, to do a cost/feasibility study on all five wastewater treatment plants on the Santa Barbara south coast. We had been told that such upgrade would "cost the moon!" but when the Metcalf & Eddy study came out, we learned that the increased monthly would be anywhere from \$12 to \$39 per month depending on the district.

MONTECITO OUTFALL STUDY...continued from page 1

This lab work, the key microbiological segment of the project, was being conducted in the UCSB lab of Dr. Trish Holden, and at the time of the funding freeze this segment of the project was incomplete. State representatives advised HTO to "proceed at (our) own risk," which translated into HTO having to cover the costs for the remaining UCSB work.

With the hope of an adopted budget for California that would unfreeze the grant funds and possibly provide reimbursement, HTO's Board of Directors approved continuation of the project for the first quarter of 2009. This guaranteed a payment of approximately \$25,000 to UCSB, and ensured that all the ocean water samples processed in Dr. Holden's lab.

That lab work was finished in March 2009 and soon after our guarantee, the state notified us that our funding would be reinstated. We thank our generous donors and supporters without whom we would not be able to make such guarantees for payment, which enable us to base our clean-ocean campaign on science rather than speculation. We would also like to thank all the UCSB scientists who have borne up under the financial pressure we inherited from the state grant freeze, and we thank the Montecito Sanitary District for its cooperation in the SOWOST study.



Of course the rates would now be higher than when this report was published, but clearly the rate increases would not cost "the moon"! When considered against the expense of other utilities such as gas, electricity and cable service, the rates would be affordable and worth every penny...

Ocean Wastewater Discharge Inventory for the State of California

This report is now being updated as HTO's Wastewater Discharge Report (WDR), with the information being analyzed and mapped by scientists at UCSB's Marine Science Institute (see page 1 of this newsletter).

Dangers of Swimming in Secondary Sewage (Kator Report)

Written by environmental microbiologist Howard Kator (U. of Virginia College of William & Mary), this report focuses on the health hazards of swimming in ocean water where treated wastewater is being discharged into shallow areas. Sections of the report were included in the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) report to Congress "Swimming in Sewage" in February 2004.

Lower Rincon Beach DNA

This is one of the first environmental DNA studies done in the U.S.! To put an end to speculation about the sources of pollution at the Rincon, a world-class surf spot, HTO commissioned a DNA lab to analyze what is really going on there. DNA testing in the environment is now commonplace.



911

During a stormy night of the winter just past, HTO got a frantic call from someone wanting to report a sewage spill, and that got us thinking about the importance of citizens being able to dial an easily-remembered number when time is of the essence.

We made a few calls about this issue, and now, anyone wanting to report a sewage spill anywhere in the city or county of Santa Barbara can simply call 911. The dispatch will go immediately to the appropriate agency, such as the Fire Department, or appropriate sanitary district, for emergency response.

HTO thanks Cameron Benson, city of Santa Barbara Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Manager, for establishing this telephone service with SBPD Lieutenant Paul McCaffrey, who is in charge of the City 911 dispatch. Cathleen Garnand of Santa Barbara County Project Clean Water confirms that 911 can be used to call in an emergency spill, from anywhere in Santa Barbara County.



With Deep Appreciation

Heal the Ocean sends its sincere thanks to these contributors who have helped assure the success of our campaign for a clean and healthy ocean. This roster records donations made from January 2008 to the present. If your name has been omitted, we sincerely apologize and ask that you please call (805) 965-7570 so that we can correct our records.

\$50,000 and up

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\$35,000 and up

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Solin Designs
Tracey St. Johns
Mary Jane & Ronald Steele/
In honor of Nancy Steele & Peck
& John O Euwer
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Anna Volkoff
Ellen Wall
In honor of Dr. Andrew Binder
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Peter & Julianne Walsh
Robin & Jenny Watt/
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Wilson & Maienza Marriage

HTO extends its heartfelt best wishes, and thanks, to John Maienza and Gregg Wilson, who were married at home in Montecito in September 2008. In their wedding invitation, the couple requested that in lieu of presents they wished their guests would benefit one of a handful of their favorite charities. HTO was on that list, and we received an astonishing number of donations from their many friends from across the country!

Thank you John and Gregg, and we wish you a long, happy life together!

THE STORY OF HTO FLAGS

Heal the Ocean's brilliant deep-blue flags will be flying on State Street this year from August 14-28, 2009 – two weeks of ocean celebration in the center of town that also celebrates our 11th birthday on August 19!

When HTO was invited in 2006 to participate in the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization's State Street Flag Program, we were extremely honored. We were (and still are) the first and only environmental non-profit organization participating in this program, joining wonderful company like the American Red Cross, Girls, Inc., SEE International, United Way, and many other fine organizations.

To get into this prestigious lineup, there was the issue of raising funds to have the flags made, so HTO put out a call to our loyal membership for sponsorship of the flags. The response to our invitation was so immediate that within a week we had all the funds we needed to have the necessary 125 flags made!

We are proud to publish the roster of our Heal the Ocean Flag Bearers, and every year, when our flags go up on State Street, we will thank you again.

Created by Chris Wilkinson of E-Wave, Santa Barbara, the HTO logo combines sun, mountain, river and ocean to indicate the interconnectedness of all things to the sea, and to the happy dolphins that swim there. The actual flag design was created by architect Steve Hausz, who has served on the Downtown Organization's flag committee.

We are so pleased that the two weeks allotted to HTO's flags every August encompass the date of our beginning – August 19, 1998, when HTO executive director Hillary Hauser and local attorney Jeffrey Young co-founded Heal the Ocean during a public protest over the closed beaches in Santa Barbara.



Photo by John Robinson

HTO FLAG BEARERS

Stephen & Maren Hansen Aizenstat, David H. Anderson, Paul & Susie Baerwald, Ron Baker, Dr. Diane Boss and Anton Vonk, Les & Zora Charles/Cheeryble Foundation, Dennis & Susan Chiavelli, Heather & Kelly Clenet, Rich & Krista Coffin, Gregory & Della Cook, Stephen & Jean Crossland, Chris & Natalie Cutler, Thomas & Cynthia Dabney, John & Nina Davies, Les Dayka, James G.P. & Deanna Dehlsen, Elizabeth B. Denison, David & Theresa Dolotta, Sylvain Edgerton, Dan & Rae Emmett, Edward & Suzanne Eubanks, Graham & Sara Farrar, Doug & Tisha Ford, Georgia & Ted Funsten, Allyn McLerie & George Gaynes, Harry and Gail Gelles, Cliff & Nicola Ghersen, Laurie & George Glerum, Kenneth & Nancy Goldsholl, Eileen & Michael Haber, Brad and Julia Hall, Steve & Carole Halsted, Jean & Stanley Harfenist, Hillary Hauser, Rick & Kristin Hogue, Cindy & Bill Howard, Heather Hudson, Robin & Vikki Hunt, Sue Jamgochian, A. Kar, Kirsten & Robert Kemp, Richard & Suzanne Knaub, Richard & Peggy Lamb, Robert & Kathleen Laurain, Mike & Laura Lodato, Monika McCoy, DC, Vince & Joy McGuiness, Judy McKee, Ronald Melville, Cornelius Mietus, Matthew & Malia Morphy, Emma & Mike Narachi, Andy & Yvonne Neumann, Gail Osherenko, William Otto, DVM, Francoise & James Park, Victoria Pauley, Joanne & Brian Rapp, Adam & Kara Rhodes, Allan Ghitlerman & Susan Rose, Richard & Thekla Sanford, Stephen Segal, Leslie Sinclair Von Wiesenberger, Wayne & Barbara Smith, Peter Sperling, Shawn & Paula Stussy, Shaun & Carla Tomson, Paul & Evan Turpin, Sander & Virginia Vanocour, Charles Vinick, Daniel Waldman, Steve & Chrissy Waterman, Cath & Steve McLaughlin Webb, Jim and Sharon Westby, Blair & Heidi Whitney

☀ Remembering Special People...

Heal the Ocean is very sad to report the loss of very dear members who had been special friends to us:

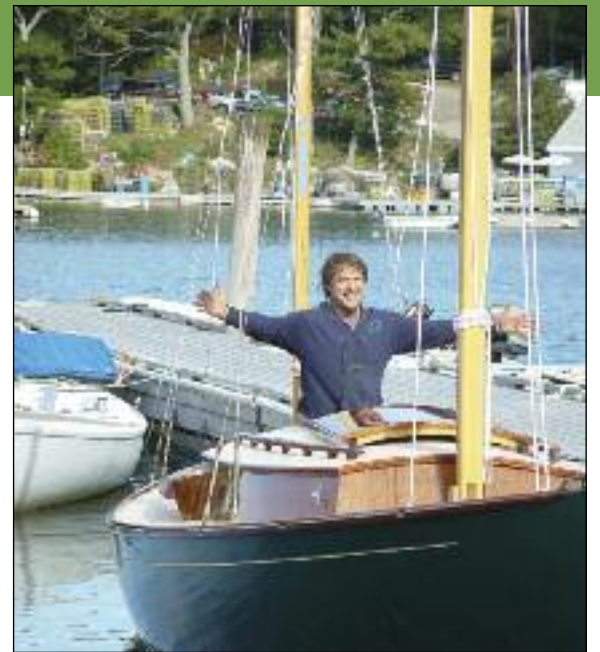
Frank Louda, a long-time loyal HTO supporter, passed away while surfing Hollister Ranch at the end of June 2008. Frank and his wife, Jodie Ireland greatly help us through their LOJO Foundation and specifically worked on our campaign to get the South Coast Beach Communities (Rincon) septic-to-sewer project approved. An ocean man in every respect, Frank built his own boats in Maine, shaped surfboards, and loved the sea. We miss him greatly, and thank all those who donated to HTO in Frank's memory.

Heal the Ocean had the privilege of Chris Cutler's company and passion for the ocean at our last Annual benefit concert in August, 2008. We were then heartbroken to hear of his passing just four months later, in December, 2008, after a short illness. Chris, along with his wife Talie, was a great HTO supporter and he will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest condolences to Talie and the Cutler family, and thank them for directing donations to HTO in Chris's memory. We have heard far and wide from many people paying tribute to Chris with both donations and sincere words of respect.

Carol Houck Smith, who edited generations of the nation's most distinguished poets and authors, died in November 2008, at the age of 85. A long-time friend of HTO executive director Hillary Hauser, Carol was vice president of W.W. Norton & Co., and known as a legendary editor. She left HTO a sizable legacy in her will, for which we will be eternally grateful.

Heal the Ocean thanks those who have sent donations in memory of other ocean people who have recently left us, including Mary Lynne Drake, Dolores Bootay, and the legendary founder of Heal the Bay in Santa Monica, Dorothy Green. We continue to think of Craig Bigelow, founder of Santa Barbara Salsa, who very generously remembered HTO in his will, and also Ann Pennock Marshall, who also bequeathed HTO. Last but not least, we will always remember Thais Baker Couples, a vital young woman who has left us far too soon.

The memory of these wonderful people lives on in our hearts as we work for the ocean they so loved.



Frank Louda (above)

Carol Houck Smith (above left)

Chris Cutler (above right)

Heal the Ocean

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A Perfect Day: Two surf buddies, a favorite dog, uncrowded beach, and a clean, beautiful ocean. Photo by Morgan Maassen