

Heal the Ocean

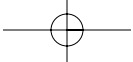
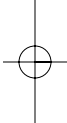
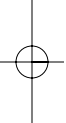
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painting by Ruston Slager



Half the Ocean



NEWSLETTER 2011

*HTO on septic regs... Rincon update... Charting toxic groundwater...
HTO doggy bag dispensers for hire... Remembering John Robinson... The fabulous
2010 Gala... Junior Council beach cleanups... Our wonderful donors...*

IN AND AROUND HEAL THE OCEAN...

We thank **Stan Harfenist** for his many years of service to the HTO Board of Directors as Secretary, and also **Ron Pulice** for his work on the Board as co-chair of the Programs Committee. We thank **Steve Halsted** for his years with Heal the Ocean not only as a board member (including Chairman of the Board). Most specifically, we are ever indebted to Steve for the very hard work he did for years on the South Coast Beaches Septic to Sewer project – it is because of Steve the Rincon portion of this project is coming to fruition.

Heal the Ocean is thrilled that **Megan O'Meara** has joined our team! She came in to assume the role of HTO Junior Council Programs Director, and her talents are so prolific she is now HTO's Programs Administrator, too! (See pages 10-11 of this newsletter to see the work Megan is doing, including the launch of regular Junior Council beach cleanups, and a joint HTO/Santa Barbara County doggy dispenser advertising sponsorship program!) Megan, who teaches private scuba lessons, loves the ocean! And with her educational background (BA in Arts, Broadcast and Electronic Communication Arts, San Francisco State), she is doing a lot of graphic design for HTO, too, including the sponsorship stickers for the doggy bag dispensers (photos on page 11). Thank you, HTO **advisory board member Mike deGruy** and Middle School director **Brian McWilliams**, for sending Megan to us!



Megan O'Meara

Thank you, **Mario Borgatello**, for sending your men to help us clear out our old downtown office! Thank you **Jacob Tell** and the team at **Oniracom**, for donating so much time to



Ruston Slager & Ava Everett at HTO's booth during Earth Day

director **Hillary Hauser** in moments where the political way is not exactly clear. They have been with Heal the Ocean since the very beginning of our organization and we would not be in business without them.

Thanks, one and all!



OUR NEW OFFICE

After being on State Street for nearly 10 years, HTO has made a move to cut costs, and in a miraculous series of events, we captured the most wonderful office space (we think) in Santa Barbara – over the Riviera Theater! Next time you come to this wonderful theater for a movie – come up and see us!



HTO's 3 windows over the Riviera Theater

OUR NEW ADDRESS:

Heal the Ocean
2040 Alameda Padre Serra #224
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Lockbox Mail:
P.O. Box 90106
Santa Barbara, CA 93190



HTO FLAGS FLY ON STATE STREET

One of Santa Barbara's favorite flags of the State Street flag program, this year our flags are flying August 18-29, just in time to celebrate our 14th birthday on August 19!



COVER PAINTING BY THOMAS KEENAN

During the January 2011 Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (S.C.A.P.E.) show in Santa Barbara, a jury bestowed awards for oils, watercolors and sculptures. Heal the Ocean, which was beneficiary of a percentage of all sales of the SCAPE show, was given the honor of bestowing the "Heal the Ocean Ribbon" on any art piece in the show. We unanimously picked a wonderful oil painting by *plein air* artist Thomas L. Keenan, entitled "Cold Feet." To us at HTO this portrayal of children playing in the sea embodies the reason Heal the Ocean formed in the first place – a clean ocean for our children and hope for the future. Thank you, Thomas! Thank you, SCAPE!



HEAL THE OCEAN NEWSLETTER 2011

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HEAL THE OCEAN

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HI FROM HILLARY



"The ocean deserves the highest technology we have, nothing less."

When Heal the Ocean formed during a public demonstration on the steps of the County Administration Building on August 19, 1998, I said these words to the crowd that had gathered to protest the miserable state of Santa Barbara's closed beaches.

HTO co-founder Jeff Young had originally led me into a new field I'd never known – DNA testing in the environment. Surfers had asked for help with the Rincon, complaining of health problems every time they surfed there. They felt the Rincon homeowners were denying their septic systems had anything to do with the problem.

"We have to get into DNA," Jeff said.

With the help of Jean-Michel Cousteau, who sponsored the formation of our non-profit foundation and became a HTO Board member, HTO immediately raised \$60,000, and created a collaborative effort with Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) in one of the first environmental DNA tests in this country. The results were conclusive: the major percentage of pollution in the Rincon lagoon was human.

We were off and running. We worked with Carpinteria Sanitary District to pull in state funds (\$425,000) to do the EIR for the project. We pulled in funds for the sewer engineering studies. Later we pulled in another \$2 million to help homeowners pay for the sewer construction itself.

We were into getting a lot of money for the "highest technology we have, nothing less."

We worked with County EHS to allocate \$2 million in funds brought in by Assemblyperson Hannah-Beth Jackson for septic-to-sewer work. We raised \$75,000 to spur the City of Santa Barbara into contracting with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to study the ground-water/leaking sewer pipe connection. We hired a team of researchers to put together a wastewater report for the State of California.

And THEN, we scored a \$333K state grant (Prop 50 Clean Beaches Initiative) grant to pay for a 3-year study of the Montecito Sewer outfall, which discharges off Butterfly Beach very close to shore. HTO raised additional funds to augment this report.

As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, Heal the Ocean is now concentrating on the work of exposing the failure of our clean water agencies to act or enforce. We will still lobby for outside funds that can help pay for clean water projects, but we are no longer raising funds to pay for studies, because enough studies have been done. It is time to act, and it is time to enforce. Heal the Ocean can focus on this aspect of clean water work by simplifying the workings of our organization.

Thank you for helping,

Hillary Hauser 

Thank you, Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust!

HTO once again extends its deep thanks to the Phyllis S. Poehler/Walter E. Stremel Charitable Trust, St. Paul, Minnesota, for the funds to publish this newsletter and to continue our other avenues of outreach! We thank Bill, Pam & Lily Poehler of Santa Barbara (long-time HTO supporters) for their enthusiasm – it means much to us.

ISSUES...ISSUES...ISSUES...

The strength of Heal the Ocean's mission lies in our achievement of actual physical change to wastewater infrastructure that impacts the ocean. We are proud to give the following updates on construction schedules for infrastructure improvements that are taking place today because of work we've done in the past.

CONSTRUCTION STARTING FOR GSD UPGRADE

The Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) construction of its wastewater plant upgrade to full secondary treatment standards may come in more than a year sooner than required! When HTO defeated GSD's application for another five-year 301(h) waiver in 2002, the Regional Water Quality Control Board stipulated that GSD would be full secondary by November 1, 2004. In April 2011, the Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) awarded PCL Construction, Inc., Arizona, a notice to proceed on building the wastewater treatment plant, and PCL is following an ambitious schedule to have the plant upgrade finished by May 2013. The other good news is that construction bids for the upgrades came in about 20% lower than anticipated, with the original \$50 million price tag coming down to about \$43.5 million. (In our position on the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2012 steering committee, HTO lobbied for \$500,000 in Proposition 84 funds to help pay for the cost of GSD upgrade, and those funds were approved by the State in May 2011. HTO is proud of this one – the effect on ocean water quality will be tangible!



HTO PLATFORM

The following five areas of our action, which you can read on this and the following 3 pages, are contained in HTO's mission statement:

- Sewage – no pathogens in discharge
- Septic systems – remove from improper areas
- Non-Point Pollution/Storm Water
- Ocean dumping
- Leaching landfills & dumps

HTO Research Included in Literature Review

The literature review for the Santa Barbara south coast Recycled Water Development Plan includes 3 HTO reports: Metcalf & Eddy cost study of tertiary treatment for Santa Barbara South Coast (2001); HTO California Wastewater Inventory (2010); and Water Reclamation Research (Ian Adam 2000). All three reports are posted on HTO's website www.healththeocean.org.

WASTEWATER RECYCLING

As a member of the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2012 steering committee, HTO continues to track the progress of the development of the South Coast Recycled Water Development Plan for the Santa Barbara County south coast. In May 2011 the Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, recommended that the Santa Barbara County IRWM receive the full requested amount of \$3 million (including \$500,000 for the GSD upgrade). HTO has lobbied heavily for a Planning Grant of \$100,000 for a Recycled Water Development Plan, which is expected to be approved by the State some time during the summer 2012. This plan will identify the most cost-effective ways to expand recycled water use in Santa Barbara's south coast, and in its role on the IRWM steering committee, HTO is committed to making sure the cost estimates for recycled water development include the cost of removing all contaminants (CECs). We continue to believe that recycled wastewater is one way of keeping wastewater out of the ocean.



HTO WEIGHS IN ON ASBS ISSUE

"ASBS" stands for Area of Special Biological Significance," and includes pristine California shoreline areas like Shelter Cove, Carmel, San Clemente Island and Monterey Bay. In May 2011 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released its plan for monitoring discharges into an ASBS as subject to conditions in an Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for exceptions to the California Ocean Plan. This draft included only "nonpoint" discharges (storm water and other nonpoint discharges). The State Board completely omitted the subject of wastewater discharge.

HTO has long made its position known on this subject to the State Board. In some ASBSs, the discharge is into shallow water – Shelter Cove receives wastewater discharge in 0' of water (the tide pool area)!

The State Board's system of blanket exception to Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) discharging into ASBSs is explained in the Draft PEIR as being reasonable because each WWTP has to comply with discharge and monitoring requirements of their NPDES permits, so that therefore, these discharges are "covered."

HTO has pointed out to the state that NPDES permits are for "ocean receiving waters," and not areas of special biological significance, and that the Draft PEIR even states that WWTP self-monitoring has resulted in acknowledged data gaps and the lack of coordinated coast wide information. *Further, these efforts in general were not designed to assess compliance with the Ocean Plan prohibition against waste discharge to ASBS and the goal to maintain natural water quality in ASBS.*

HTO has requested a specific program of exception, evaluation and monitoring for wastewater discharges into ASBS. Stay tuned!



AT THE TOP OF HTO'S 5-POINT MISSION: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Since our formation in 1998, HTO has focused on health risks and environmental harms caused by septic systems improperly sited in areas of high groundwater, poor soils or next to creeks and beaches.

AB 885 – GETTING SEPTIC REGS IN PLACE

In February 2011 Coast Law Group, Encinitas, filed a lawsuit on behalf of Heal the Ocean and Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, challenging the failure of the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt regulations or standards for the permitting and operating of septic systems as required by Assembly Bill 885 and the California Water Code. AB 885, authored by former Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson in 1999, was signed into law in September 2000, and the SWRCB was required to adopt regulations or standards for the permitting or operation of septic systems by January 1, 2004.

Although the SWRCB held numerous public meetings over the years and put forth revision after revision, no regulations materialized. The lawsuit is a “friendly nudge” to the State to get going for real on implementing this bill, and HTO/HTB are holding good rounds of dialogue to get the regulations in place. Hannah-Beth Jackson has been hired by HTO to help move this issue forward.

As a result of the lawsuit the SWRCB immediately proposed a schedule for implementing the public process for AB 885, holding scoping meetings in May 2011. In November 2011 the State Board will release a draft policy and supplemental environmental documentation to the public. The revised draft policy will be released to the public in March 2012 for comment, and in July 2012 AB 885 will be adopted by the SWRCB. HTO and Heal the Bay have stayed their legal action while the process moves forward, and are keeping watch to make sure that not only progress gets made in a timely fashion but that the policy contains decent language.



OTHER AREAS OF SEPTIC WORK...

The last of the Hannah-Beth Jackson \$2 million Septic-to-Sewer fund has been spent on a Wastewater Management Plan for Los Olivos, a north Santa Barbara County town connected with an existing groundwater quality problem in the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater Basin (impacting the Santa Ynez River). A \$250,000 engineering study was awarded to AECOM (Ventura office) in March 2011 for the study, which will focus on the downtown area of Los Olivos, which is entirely on septic systems. The wastewater plan will evaluate a combination of wastewater treatment options such as advanced treatment systems; onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) pre-treatment and pumping/trucking; communal “Step” systems; package plant systems, and tertiary treatment for a communal OWTS.

Since 2000, when the “HBJ \$2 million” came into Santa Barbara County, HTO has been working with Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services to lobby EHS to releasing funds to particular projects. **Mission Canyon Community Plan:** HTO has asked the County of Santa Barbara Planning Commission for stronger mitigation measures and more stringent standards in the matter of septic systems being installed on upper Mission Canyon properties that do not have sewer available. It is estimated that the eventual build-out of Mission Canyon will add 70 septic systems to the 235 that already exist in upper Mission Canyon. The area was given a Medium-High Problem Rating in the Santa Barbara County Questa Septic System Sanitary Survey due to the combination of very difficult soil-geologic conditions in most of the area, and proximity to a 303(d) listed water body. Read HTO’s letter on our website, www.healtheocean.org.



Help for HTO! Das on winning night with Hannah-Beth Jackson

SOUTH COAST SEPTIC TO SEWER PROJECT MOVING TOWARD CONSTRUCTION

The South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer project, which will convert Sandyland Cove, Sand Point and Rincon from septic to sewer, is proceeding forward with final plans, design refinements, Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addendums and other procedural matters, as well as contractor bids. Yes, there have been delays, but the project is moving forward! A contracting bid was expected

to be awarded for Sandyland and Sand Point during summer 2011, but is delayed a few months, until Fall 2011, while the Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD) seeks more competitive prices.

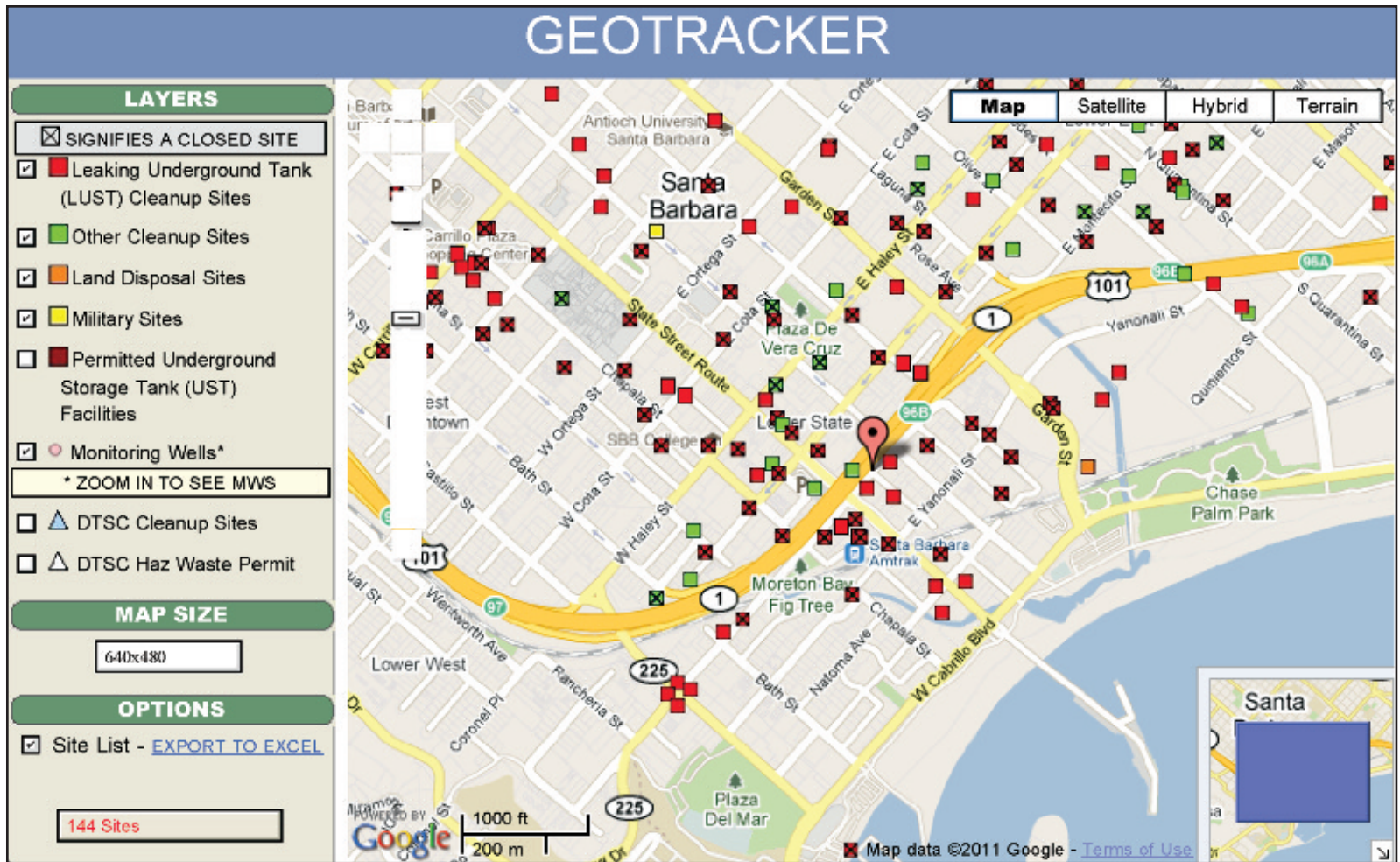
When the Rincon portion of the project hit a permitting snag with Cal Trans, former Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson was contracted by HTO to help untangle the delay. Her expert political help, paid for by the Tomchin Family Charitable Foundation, led to the hands-on assistance of 35th District Assemblymember Das Williams and his aide Hillary Blackerby, who made

a site visit to the Carpinteria bluffs area to assess the changes Cal Trans was suggesting. Result? Permit (original route) granted! CSD Craig Murray hopes that actual construction of the Rincon portion of the project can begin during the second half of 2012.

Thank you, Das! Thank you Hillary Blackerby!
Thank you Hannah-Beth Jackson and Cheryl Tomchin!



ISSUES...ISSUES...ISSUES...



HTO CHARTS TOXIC GROUNDWATER

In many areas of the City of Santa Barbara – primarily along the waterfront, in the 101 Garden Street underpass corridor, the Cabrillo Plaza and in the industrial area west of Milpas Street – what lies below the ground is a combination of toxic soils and polluted groundwater. In some cases the soil has been so polluted that it has had to be taken to a toxic landfill for disposal. Heal the Ocean has been dogging this issue for years, and Helene Gardner, PhD in environmental toxicology, has helped us get a handle on what pollution is where. Studying the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) Geotracker website, Helene assembled a chart of monitoring wells and the pollutants that are in them, together with a synopsis as to how much of this problem remains unremediated.

HTO executive director Hillary Hauser and Helene Gardner met with Santa Barbara City officials (creek, public works, and water departments) on this issue, and the City’s response was to send us a chore list of things – of items to research and help them with – and they asked us to look within various departments of the City for information they couldn’t find (!) In addition, HTO has been in touch with the Regional Water Quality Control Board about this massive groundwater pollution issue, and in one response, the Regional Board staff asked HTO to find financial help to remedy one of the most toxic properties they can’t seem to regulate. Stay tuned!



911

We want to remind all HTO members that anyone needing to call in a sewage spill can simply call 911. The dispatch will be immediately directed to the appropriate agency, such as the fire department or sanitary district, for an emergency response. This goes for the City of Santa Barbara, and the County, too.

ILLEGAL POLLUTING ACTIVITIES

If you see illegal leaf blowing into the gutters, or washing of sidewalks into the gutters, or anything that doesn’t look right to you, call the HTO office right away (805) 965-7570. We will have the appropriate City or County official out to the site immediately!

WHERE'S THE DUMP?

In 1999, during the earliest days of HTO, someone came into our office with a vial of putrid water collected from the wall of the 101 freeway south onramp at Garden Street. We had it tested – and the bacterial readings were off the charts. The odors in this area are well known to Santa Barbara residents, especially the employees at the Home Improvement Center, who have been known to get nauseous breathing the fumes.

HTO chased this issue for years, and have been led astray by officials with the City of Santa Barbara, who said this area – official address 132 Garden Street – only consisted of a wood-mulching company. Because of our complaints to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the owner of the mulching company began to cover the area with tarps during a rain.

The Southern Pacific railroad property, where the City operated a landfill before moving out to Las Positas, is 132 Garden Street. HTO has unearthed engineering documents that have identified this address as an old landfill site.

Why is all this sleuthing important? One cannot cover up a landfill with dirt and leave. It has to be monitored, capped, controlled, dug up – remediated. Also, the waterfront area was originally a wetlands extending as far back as the north side of the 101 Freeway. The “earthquake rubble” thrown into the wetlands to make land to build on was not benign. It consisted of all sorts of toxic materials, trash and other offal. When it rains, the groundwater and what would have been marsh water rises through the dump (and all the “earthquake rubble” and toxic waste everywhere else, for that matter), and drains out into the ocean through Laguna Channel, or through the groundwater itself.

It is senseless to spend millions on cleaning up the Laguna Channel, when the source of pollution to the Laguna Channel is landfilled material sitting in groundwater, or earthquake rubble and trash sitting in groundwater.

HTO is in the process of getting to the bottom of this mess, including the landfill that lies beneath the wood chipping business at 132 Garden Street, which leaks out of the freeway wall, down into the gutter and storm drains, and thence to the Laguna Channel. Go to www.healthocean.org to read HTO's letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board about this unmitigated disaster!



Aerial view of 132 Garden Street

The leaking wall at Garden Street 101 onramp South



RWQCB staff has told HTO that the “City never operated a dump on the east side,” and that the waterfront area had been filled with earthquake rubble “and some amounts of refuse.” However, Disposal Site Inspection reports prepared by Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services as late as 2007 states the Facility Name as the “Old Santa Barbara City Dump at Montecito and Garden Street.”

HTO also went into *Santa Barbara News-Press* microfiche records at the Santa Barbara Public Library, and found a October 11, 1950 article about the City expanding its dump operations at Las Positas (now Elings Park), and in this article, Santa Barbara Mayor Norris Montgomery notes that “the present dumpsite on the Fox property (Elings Park) was taken over “seven or eight years ago” (1947-1948) “...when the City was evicted from the Southern Pacific property on the lower east side.”



HTO JUNIOR COUNCIL ORGANIZES REGULAR BEACH CLEANUPS

At its April 2011 meeting, the founding members of Heal the Ocean's Junior Council voted to organize regular, monthly beach cleanups on all Santa Barbara south county beaches beginning Fall, 2011.



HTO JCs at a Beach Cleanup, L to R: Elise Scheuermann, Cecily Sanchez & Penn Stussy

everyone in south Santa Barbara County. "By making the beach cleanups a priority the Santa Barbara community will see noticeable improvements at the local beaches with the help of these incredible teenagers," says Megan O'Meara, HTO-JC Programs Director.

The beach cleanups will be held on the first Sunday of every month starting in September 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. To receive community service hours, students must come ready to pick up trash: reusable gloves are required, pails are desired.

Heal the Ocean Junior Council's newly launched website www.htoJuniorCouncil.org has posted an informative event schedule for the beach cleanups, as well as other activities of the HTO-JC.

The scope of this regular beach-cleaning service will extend from Goleta to Rincon. High school students from all over the Santa Barbara south county will gather with the HTO-JCs to help with an important issue they feel strongly about. Community members are welcome and encouraged to join the important events, too.

By making the beach cleaning service regular, the HTO Junior Council hopes to improve the beach experience for



HTO honorary chair Julia Louis-Dreyfus introduces founding JC members to HTO 2010 Gala Event crowd at the Biltmore Hotel



DOLOTTA, participating in a HTO-JC beach cleanup

HTO-JC MONTHLY BEACH CLEANUP SCHEDULE

Beginning September 4, 2011 with Goleta Beach, the HTO Junior Council and its associated high school clubs will begin a regular monthly cleaning schedule of local beaches, to take place on the first Sunday of every month!

Volunteers are welcomed to join the JCs and their High School Clubs. Check the Junior Council Website www.htojuniorcouncil.org to find out which beach is next, and where the meeting place is!

Beach Cleaning Schedule 2011-2012

September: Goleta Beach

October: More Mesa

November: Arroyo Burro

December: Mesa Lane

January: Shoreline

February: Leadbetter Beach & West Beach

March: Waterfront & East Beach

April: Butterfly Beach

May: Hammonds & Miramar (to Fernald Pt.)

June: Summerland

July: Carpinteria Bluffs

August: Rincon

HOTLINE: If you see a beach in tremendous need of cleaning, call Megan O'Meara at the HTO office! 805 965-7570,

ABOUT THE HTO JUNIOR COUNCIL



The HTO Junior Council was formed in March 2010, when it took on the Santa Barbara County Doggy Bag program at South County beaches after the County suspended filling dog bag dispensers. Council members are high school students from every local high school in South Santa Barbara County, each developing a club at their respective schools.

To have a look at the activities of the Junior Council go to www.htoJuniorCouncil.org.

For more information, contact: Megan O'Meara
Junior Council Programs Director Megan@HealTheOcean.org

DOGGY DISPENSER PROGRAM

HTO LAUNCHES DOGGY DISPENSER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The cost of filling those doggy bag dispensers at Santa Barbara south coast beaches (and some parks) is considerable, and with the help of our generous donors, Heal the Ocean has been keeping pace with raising just enough money to pay for the bags, which the County orders in \$2,500 lots.

To accelerate and secure this program, HTO is now working with Santa Barbara County Parks & Recreation to facilitate one-year agreements with businesses that will front the annual cost of the bags for individual dispensers, receiving in return a highly visible one-year ad on the dispenser. Bright, cheerful, individualized stickers for the dispensers are being designed by Megan O'Meara, HTO's talented Programs Administrator.

Megan, who is also Programs Director for HTO's Junior Council, has a big background in design and marketing, and in 2005 won the Creativity Award from the Business & Industry Associates of Santa Barbara. She can create a wonderful design for your business! Megan is now conducting outreach to businesses, facilitating the contracts between participating businesses and the County, and will be happy to design your one-year sticker for the doggy bag dispenser of your choice.

Thank you, Santa Barbara Middle School and Sandra O'Meara, CPA, for being the first to sign up for sponsorship of dispensers – at Miramar Beach steps and Hammonds Trail (Middle School) and Goleta Beach east parking lot (O'Meara)!

For the list of available dispensers and their prices, please contact Megan O'Meara, Megan@HealTheOcean.org, or call (805) 965-7570, or her cell phone 805-618-0082.



SPECIAL DOGGY BAG THANKS

Heal the Ocean owes a big debt of gratitude to the Andrew D. Busch Family Foundation for funding the first huge lot of doggy bags to launch the HTO doggy bag program in March 2010. We also thank Ron & Stacy Pulice for providing significant funds to keep it moving forward, and thanks also to the Anonymous donor who paid to have a dispenser (and bags) installed on the Ventura County side of the Rincon. And thanks to all the wonderful dogs who continue to donate bags. All this help has a direct effect on the cleanliness of our beaches! *Woof!*



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 2010 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.

\$25,000 and up

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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 article, "Another Day at the Beach," on our website: WWW.HealTheOcean.org.



HTO LIBRARY

One of Heal the Ocean's important missions is to commission research that can be accessed by other communities and decision-making bodies across the country (or around the world!).

Visit our website: WWW.HealTheOcean.org, and click on "Library."

Here, you will find:

- California Ocean Wastewater Discharge Report & Inventory for the State of California (March 2010) + Google "Fly-To" Map
- Dangers of Swimming in Secondary Sewage (Kator Report)
- Lower Rincon Beach DNA
- Report on the Tajiguas Landfill
- Cost of Tertiary Wastewater Treatment for Santa Barbara
- USGS Groundwater Study
- Water Reclamation Research 2000

Remembering Special People...

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN ROBINSON 1938 - 2011

John Robinson, best friend to Heal the Ocean, died February 2011 in Santa Barbara, from complications of brain cancer, and with his passing we have a hole in our hearts.

John served for years on the HTO Board of Directors, working closely with executive director Hillary Hauser to launch a programmatic attack outlined in our five-point mission statement. HTO was already working on the septic system problems at Rincon when John observed that septic system "cluster" overuse was the most likely cause of Santa Barbara County's septic system pollution problems. He made the first septic map made anywhere in California, identifying "clusters" of septic systems that could be identified as good targets for conversion to public sewer.



During his long and successful career with NOAA, John was appointed as the government's chief scientist for the response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska (1989), and the Kuwait oil fires and oil spills in 1991. A year later, in 1992, he organized a 100-day research cruise to the Persian Gulf, aboard the 240 ft. NOAA research vessel Mt. Mitchell with scientists from Europe, the United States and every Gulf country but Iraq, but including Iran, examining the impact of the world's largest oil spill on this sensitive marine environment. Following this historic research cruise, John led a series of environmental peace talks with scientists from Israeli, Palestine and several Middle Eastern countries, focused on simulated oil spill response meetings in Santa Barbara and Monterey.

When Heal the Ocean focused on the problem of wastewater discharge into shallow waters where people swim and recreate, John and his wife, NOAA captain Francesca Cava, offered HTO a day's use of the deep diving submersible, Deep Rover, to dive and film the Montecito outfall off Butterfly Beach in 30 feet of water.

For Abtech, an Arizona-based company, John developed the concept of use of plastics in stormwater filters to remove pollutants and contaminants, and with Heal the Ocean worked to set up an experimental "Adopt-a-Drain" program in Santa Barbara using the Abtech filters. (Abtech went public on February 10, 2011).

When John passed away, it was with amazement that the community learned what John had accomplished during his lifetime. He was part of Mission Control during the Apollo 11 moon landing and continued in that high capacity with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) until after the third moon landing (Apollo 14, January 31, 1971).

From there, John moved to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where he established an intergovernmental program called the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program (OCSEAP) in response to the Arab Oil embargo that rocked the world in 1973 following the Yom Kippur War. At that time, OCSEAP was Alaska's largest environmental program with funding reaching over \$100 million over a decade time span.

In 1975, John headed the first US governmental response to the international Amoco Cadiz oil spill off France and was subsequently named as the Chief of NOAA's Hazardous Materials Response Program (HAZMAT).

For his actions in the Persian Gulf War, the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded John its Gold Medal, the highest award given by this agency.

During all this time John was involved in several other projects. For one thing, John headed the team of scientists and marine workers who led Humphrey the Whale out of San Francisco Bay twice, in 1985 and 1990, when Humphrey strayed into the Bay and up into the Sacramento Delta.

One of John's important legacies to the world is his creation of the Computer Aided Management Engineer Operation ("CAMEO") program, now in use all over the world on fire trucks. CAMEO allows first responders to compute wind speed and direction together with chemical weight of hazardous material spilled, to immediately calculate the area needing evacuation.

The critical importance of the CAMEO program became horrifically apparent during the 9/11 disaster, when crucial hazmat information was relayed to a commanding post offsite, allowing commanding chiefs to process the information and relay instructions to fire personnel working on site in the disaster area.

After John had retired from NOAA in 1994, he moved to Santa Barbara, where his wife, Francesca Cava (a NOAA captain), had been manager of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and also manager of the National Geographic's Sustainable Seas program. This is when John and Heal the Ocean met, and we are forever blessed because of it.



Remembering special pets, too...

Beloved, departed pets have been memorialized through HTO's doggy bag program.



L to R: Cappi, Chrissie (left) & Buster (right), and Leia.

The beautiful underwater photograph on our back cover, "Lamp in the Night," was taken by HTO Programs Administrator (and prolific underwater photographer)

Meagan O'Meara during one of her many scuba excursions around the Channel Islands.

