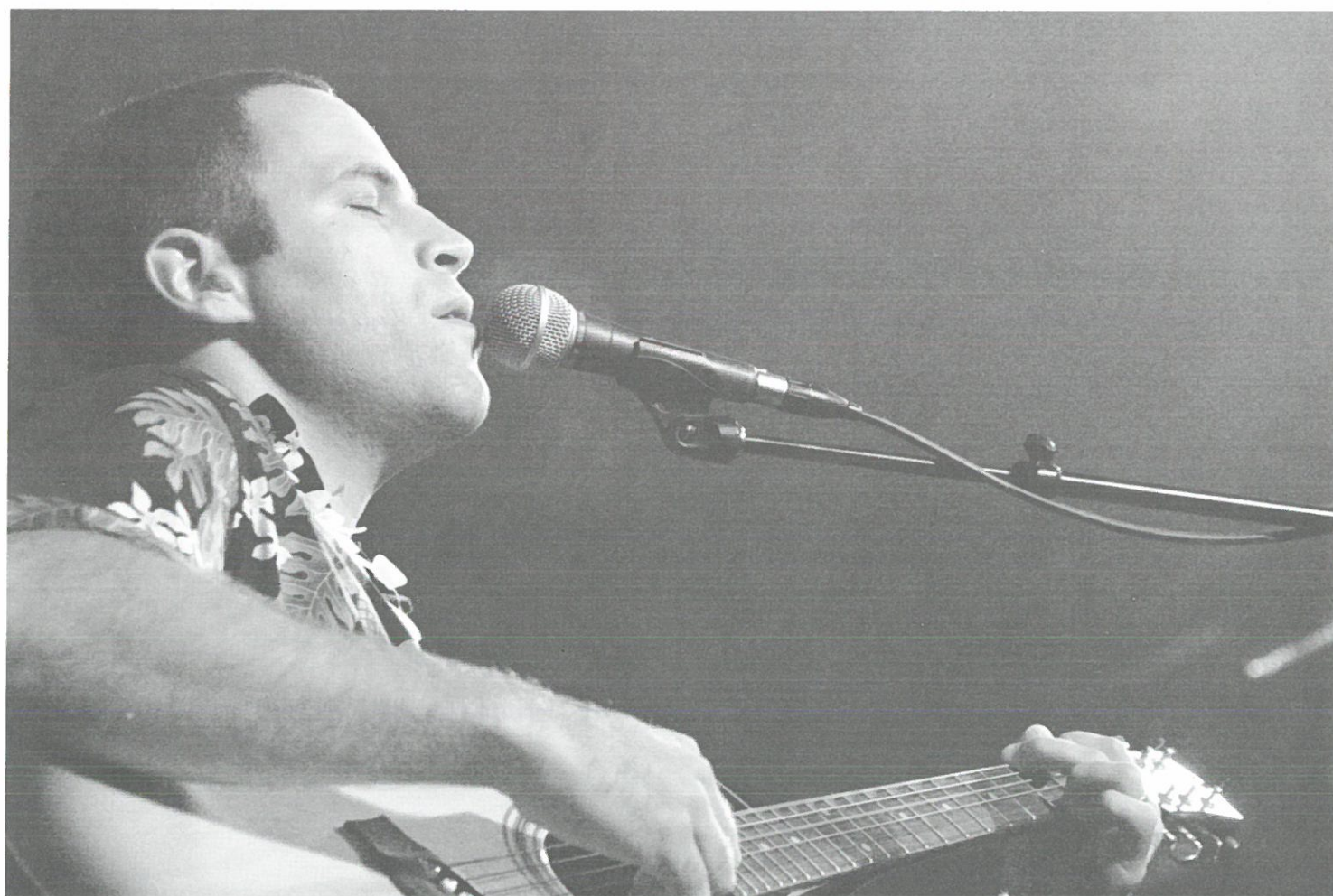




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Jack Johnson performs at HTO's First Annual Benefit Concert on October 1, 2005

Photo by Bret Gum

THE GROUNDWATER CONNECTION

Heal the Ocean has been supporting a three-year investigation by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of the shallow groundwater beneath the city of Santa Barbara near Mission Creek and along the waterfront. This project began in Fall, 2005, and has already resulted in some hugely significant findings.

During the week of December 5, 2005, USGS scientists found high fecal bacteria counts in one of the groundwater wells next to the beach at Santa Barbara's waterfront, at Skater's Park on Cabrillo Blvd. The fecal bacteria included enterococcus and e. coli. These results suggest that fecal pollutants may be transferred into the ocean through shallow groundwater discharge.

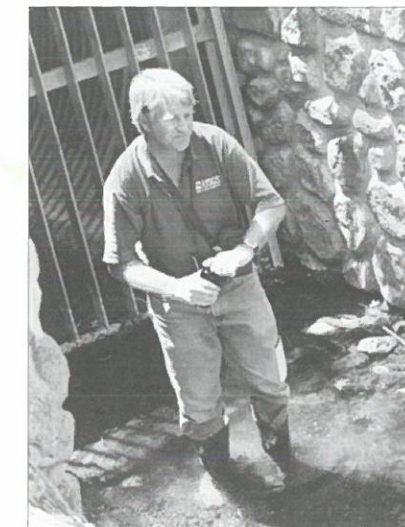
The USGS scientists will be taking more samples and DNA tests will be performed. It should be noted that the water being sampled from these wells is not accessible to the frequently blamed pollution sources – homeless encampments in particular.

"Heal The Ocean believes this project...will have vast implications for every coastal community."

The implications are enormous, not only for Santa Barbara, but for all coastal communities which may now need to examine and consider shallow groundwater as an important mechanism for transporting pollutants to the ocean – whether from septic leachfields, faulty sewer laterals or cracked sewer mains.

The USGS work in Santa Barbara is "state-of-the-art" technology that has not yet been widely enacted or used. Stanford University did some preliminary investigations in 2004 and issued a news statement that groundwater transport of pollutants to the ocean was "likely."

Heal the Ocean has been hammering on this issue for years. Beginning in 1999 with the yearly financial help of The Ann Jackson Family Foundation, we participated (with Drew Bohan of Channelkeeper) in the hiring of a researcher to examine the City's sewer maintenance records. We also hired a leak detection expert to view video



Dr. John Izbicki of USGS, taking sample from Mission Creek drain. (photo: Hillary Hauser)

sewer inspections in areas we identified as problematic, and we searched for a reputable hydrologic/drilling company (unsuccessfully) that would get monitoring wells into certain locations based on careful study of maps of the areas:

Finally, when the City agreed to hire the USGS in a three-year investigation

...continued on page 15

RINCON MOVES FORWARD

The septic-to-sewer project at Rincon, Sandlyland, Sand Point and Padaro Lane is moving forward into the next-to-last logistical/legal squares.

During 2004-2005, three homeowners in the Rincon portion of the project filed three lawsuits to stop the "South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer Project," citing as inadequate the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by the Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD). Because a single EIR was prepared to address impacts from all of



Photo: Brandon Aroyan

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HI FROM HILLARY

Heal the Ocean has experienced a phenomenal growth in the past year – a huge surge in public and financial support that is coming in not just from Santa Barbara, but from across the country and even from around the world.



Photo: Guillaume Doane

Many of these new members are joining friends who are already involved with HTO, while others are linking up to us via the Internet and other media, making our membership close to 3,000-strong. Our community is constantly embracing us with opportunities for fundraisers, and we have even been honored with the opportunity to have Heal the Ocean flags on State Street this summer. Our 1st Annual Benefit Concert in October, 2005 was a huge success, with every single person not only opening their hearts to us, but supporting us liberally. This event raised over \$160,000 for Heal the Ocean.

To all of you, we cannot give enough thanks.

We interpret all of this generous and wonderful support to be a solid vote of confidence for our science-logic approach to ocean pollution (aka “investigative earth work,” as per the Los Angeles Times reporter who wrote about Heal the Ocean’s pioneering use of DNA for water testing). It is your support and this community’s embrace that leads us to the bottom of ocean pollution and drives us to eliminate it.

When our virus tests revealed the presence of human pollution in our nearshore ocean, at a time when the creeks and storm drains were dry, we were determined to find out where this pollution was coming from. We checked (and are still checking) sewer outfalls). We dug through sewer maintenance records. We viewed sewer inspection videos and we have hired hydrologists and leak detectors. We also poked at city and county agencies and in many cases we collaborated – and we collaborate today – with them. And now, all of this work is beginning to pay off in a very big way.

Heal the Ocean, together with the city of Santa Barbara and the U.S. Geological Survey, is on the verge of discovering the potentially huge role groundwater may play in transporting human pollutants to the ocean. In addition, our pioneering work on identifying septic systems as a source of ocean and creek pollution has resulted in homeowners voluntarily getting off septic systems, and it has also resulted in policy-making for the entire state of California.

We are about to enter the final stages of abolishing the septic systems at the Rincon. The supplemental environmental impact work for the “South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer Project,” – a saga that started nearly eight years ago with our DNA testing of Rincon Lagoon, is to be approved by April 2006. This is one of the last few steps needed to get rid of the septic systems at the Rincon and along seven miles of neighboring beaches.

Inch by inch, neighborhood by neighborhood, we are getting there.

We are excited at what all this means for the beaches of Santa Barbara. We are also excited about what all this means for coastal communities everywhere. We have been asked for help from Puget Sound, Washington, where, again, septic system pollution has been recognized. We have even received a request for help from the owners of a surf resort in Pichilemu, Chile, where there is the problem of raw sewage flowing into an estuary near four world-class surfing breaks. We are pleased to share what we know, and to pass on our research in hopes of helping other communities.

“Inch by inch, neighborhood by neighborhood, we are getting there.”

In the meantime, we continue to dig, investigate, and work in our own back yard with

the ultimate goal of seeing ocean pollution eliminated entirely, and we do it all the while knowing that we have your support.

Thank you for helping.

Executive Director, Heal the Ocean



HEAL THE OCEAN

SPRING 2006

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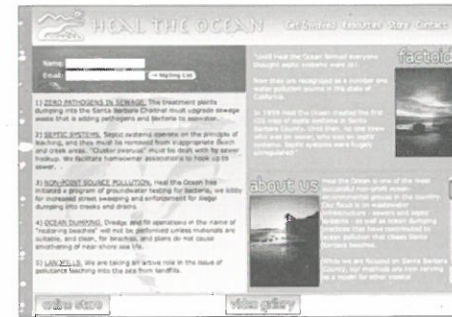
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Marco Gonzalez,
Coast Law Group, LLP

Administration

Annette Flower
Jane Maassen

HEAL THE OCEAN & THE MEDIA



New HTO Website

Heal the Ocean’s new website will soon be launched by Oniracom, a production company that also supports Animal Liberation Orchestra, Brushfire Records, G. Love & Special Sauce, Jack Johnson Music, and others. We are grateful to Chris Wilkinson of E-Wave, Santa Barbara, for creating our current website

and managing it all these years – as well as creating our logo, seen all over town and even on cars as far away as Maine. Watch for our new website, out soon!

“Another Day at the Beach,” a 4-minute video on the origins of Heal the Ocean, shot, produced and edited by Jim Knowlton of Blue Ocean Productions, Santa Barbara, is available for sale, at \$5 each. Featuring television news clips of the public demonstration on the County Administration Building that spawned our organization and with music by Jack Johnson, this film was shown at HTO’s sold-out Annual Benefit Concert on October 1, 2006, to popular acclaim!

Santa Barbara-based Blue Edge magazine has published in its March issue an

interview/feature, “The Odyssey of Hillary Hauser and Heal the Ocean,” by Helina Shaka and Naomi Bravler. Many thanks, Helina and Naomi!

The March/April issue of Distinction Magazine, a publication of the Los Angeles Times Publishing Company, hit the stands at the beginning of March and features a breezy conversation between internationally acclaimed singer Jack Johnson and HTO executive director Hillary Hauser. In this conversation, Jack talks about his feelings about true environmentalism, the need to weigh in on social issues that affect mankind – and of course the philosophy behind his wonderful music in the animated film, Curious George. Don’t miss it!



GROUNDWATER...continued from page 1

of groundwater beneath the city, Heal the Ocean leaped to the chance to support this project. We hired grantwriter Stephanie Jamgochian to contribute to the USGS work, and in September 2005, we handed the City of Santa Barbara a check for \$30,000 to support the first year of the USGS investigation. These funds were generously granted to us by the Orange County Community Foundation (Marisla), \$25,000, and the Andrew H. Burnett Foundation (\$5,000).

The study, “Microbial Contamination of Urban Streams and Ocean Beaches” (MCUSOB), is a collaboration with the city of Santa Barbara, the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) and HTO.

By September 2005, the USGS team had installed 13 monitoring wells into the water table beneath Santa Barbara, and had performed a 24-hour sample collection on each of the 13 wells. To date, all of the wells have been sampled at least once for a full 24-hour period and a complete set of analytical results will be compiled during Year Two of the project.

Heal the Ocean believes the MCUSOB project is applying cutting-edge technology to an investigation that, when finished, will have vast implications not only for Santa Barbara, but for every coastal community in the nation – and possibly the world. Stephanie Jamgochian is currently working to raise at least \$50,000 for HTO to contribute to Year Two of the USGS study, during which DNA tests will be performed on the water samples from both monitoring wells and Mission Creek.

Meanwhile, we continue our work on the potential, if not likely, sources of groundwater pollution – septic systems, sewer pipes and laterals. Mindful of what these findings may mean to homeowners financially, we continue to conduct, facilitate and oversee cost/feasibility studies, area by area.



GROUNDWATER WORK – FIRST YEAR

- Drains emptying into Mission Creek have tested positive for caffeine and fecal sterols (evidence of human fecal contamination). Also, Heal the Ocean took to a USC lab samples collected from three USGS testing sites, and the USC lab discovered enteroviruses and human bacteroides in the Mission Creek/Haley Drain installation. (The city Creeks Division has since initiated the diversion of this drain into the El Estero wastewater treatment plant.)

- Seepage run measurements along Mission Creek, to determine the connection between groundwater and creek, were conducted. This information is necessary to understand if pollutants from creeks are getting into groundwater and vice versa. USGS scientist Dr. John Izbicki said his team has discovered a “dramatic” connection between groundwater and Mission Creek – when the City’s dewatering wells come on, the creek goes down.

- Marine receptivity work at the near-shore during both high and low tides is mapping the position of the ocean/groundwater interface and the USGS team is using radium sampling techniques to identify exact areas of focused groundwater discharge to the ocean.

- Seep meters have been installed along the beach to record the influx and discharge of ocean water over several tidal cycles. Over one of those tidal cycles, USGS samples for nutrients and fecal coliform to determine if pollution is coming from onshore or offshore.

the projects, this legal action stalled Sandyland, Sand Point and the other homeowner associations as well.

CSD lawyers, together with Heal the Ocean's lawyer – Marco Gonzalez of Encinitas' Coast Law Group LLP – have successfully defended the project thus far, beating back arguably frivolous lawsuits filed by the oppositionists. When he denied the opponents' challenge to the EIR for the sewer project, Santa Barbara superior court judge Thomas Anderle ruled that the suit was "unripe," because CSD had not yet approved the sewer project.

CSD and HTO lawyers have always felt that before final project approval takes place (hopefully late spring or early summer), the best course would be to shore up the EIR with additional studies in the Rincon portion of the project area. Reflecting the collective desire to ensure every environmental issue gets appropriate attention, Heal the Ocean funded the additional work in August 2005, and it was completed in March 2006. It is currently being reviewed by CSD lawyers.

In the meantime, updated engineering, assessment and annexation studies and reports are being prepared with funds

received by Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services as part of a \$2 million grant by former assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson for septic pollution work.

The homeowners within the project area have also generously supported Heal the Ocean's Indemnity Trust Fund, which was created to pay legal and technical expenses of CSD. The arrangement was created because the agency cannot spend money outside its ratepayer area, which does not yet include all of the beach communities seeking to upgrade their systems. To date, HTO has advanced over \$113,000 for EIR work, legal help and other related work.

These funds have come to us from generous homeowners within the project areas, as well as HTO board members, Jack Johnson and the surfers of the Rincon Clean Water Classic. Specially-designated funds have also come from wonderful HTO supporters, one of whom sent two very significant checks with the following message:

"We all need people who speak with our hearts and their minds. Especially when it's something near and dear to us, like our oceans, both worldwide and locally. If things come through like I believe they

will, the money will come back to us...I'm willing to pay for what I value."

Notes like this keep us supplied with plenty of high energy and high spirit! So does the wonderful support we are receiving from everywhere, not only from city and county officials, but in the state of California, too.



NEW HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

We are thrilled to announce the addition of two new honorary board members to Heal the Ocean's growing team of supporters – Brian Hodges and Adam Rhodes. These two longtime members of our organization are surfers and water sports enthusiasts, who have given significant support to Heal the Ocean for years through the WWW Foundation. They join other honorary board members Sally Bromfield, J'Amy Brown, Jack Canfield, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jack Johnson and Jane Maassen.

PRIYA VERMA JOINS HEAL THE OCEAN STAFF AS POLICY ANALYST

Heal the Ocean is proud to announce that Priya Om Verma, a PhD student at the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, has joined the staff of Heal the Ocean as policy analyst.

In this capacity, Priya is currently reviewing numerous storm water permit (SWMP) applications being submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) by various cities within Santa Barbara county, as well as Santa Barbara County itself. These applications are legally-binding documents that determine how these jurisdictions will tackle their storm water pollution problems for the next five years.

Priya's unique approach is to work directly with the city agencies involved, to help them sort out their

ambiguities where possible. Or, she reports directly to Heal the Ocean's consulting attorney, Marco Gonzalez of Coast Law Group, Encinitas, to make sure the wishes of Heal the Ocean's membership are represented in the matters of storm water pollution.

Priya is also furthering HTO's research on short sewage outfalls, such as those that exist in Montecito, Carpinteria and Summerland, with the scientific goal of determining whether and/or how sewage plumes may drift back to the beaches.

In receiving her Masters Degree at the Bren School, Priya devoted her Masters thesis on



Priya Verma at her HTO post

an evaluation of the waste stream going into the Tajiguas Landfill and proposed alternative recycling solutions for the City of Santa Barbara. She has studied fisheries management as well as nutrient loading into the ocean.

When not working at the office, Priya is studying, writing papers, teaching in Environmental Studies,

or hanging out with her beau, James Main and wonderful little dog, Murray. Heal the Ocean feels fortunate to have her aboard!



AROUND THE OFFICE

Heal the Ocean's office has been jumping with wonderful people pitching to help with the administrative management of our ever-growing organization – which now has close to 3,000 members, not only from Santa Barbara but from around the country. Teri Taylor, who as president of the Sandyland Cove homeowners association has been a key supporter of HTO's work on the Rincon septic-to-sewer project (which will also bring sewer to Sandyland Cove, Sand Point and Padaro Lane), dived into our office work last year, and stayed on until HTO's October 1 Benefit Concert. UC Berkeley college student Whitney Forster volunteered in the office during the summer, sorting out files and records, and also attending public hearings for us.

Glenn Hening, founder of Surfrider and the Groundswell Society, jumped into the office and worked full time during the HTO Benefit Concert. In addition to administrative duties, Glenn also created a County maps library on our wall, with well-marked creeks and rivers, to facilitate our investigations of watershed problems.

Then, in November, Annette Flower, a graduate of Berkshire (UK) College of Art and Design and longtime volunteer and support of HTO, stepped in to manage the office. Annette is assisted by Jane Maassen, who instigates and oversees many of HTO's development projects. Ava Everett still manages HTO's tee-shirt business, and founding member Ruston Slager remains in charge of our organization's appearances at public events like Earth Day and the Rincon Clean Water Classic.

Finally, we are sad to see the departure of our long-time bookkeeper and friend, Maureen Shara, who has been with us since 2000. "Mo" got married, inherited a houseful of children along with a wonderful husband – and her duties of mom and wife forced her to retire from us. CPA Hillary Tentler has taken over our books, and is taking good care of us!

We appreciate every bit of this fantastic help from everyone!



RINCON TIMELINE

Pre-August 1998: CURE (Clean Up Rincon Effluent) circulates petition, complaining about surfers getting sick.

August 1998: Heal the Ocean forms.

October 1998: HTO initiates DNA testing of Rincon Lagoon, working with Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services. Results show human fecal bacteria in the lagoon.

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

March 1999: HTO writes check for sewer engineering study for Rincon; Paid for my surfers of the Rincon Clean Water Classic, CURE, Surfrider, SB County Project Clean Water, Rincon homeowner association, and HTO. Funding help comes from Patagonia.

July 1999: Price of sewer for Rincon comes in at \$2.9 million. Homeowners

vote to connect. Price includes cost of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required for the project.

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

August 2000: Rincon homeowners vote to hook up to sewer (51% is required, 75% say yes). Five Rincon homeowners immediately sue to stop project, because EIR has to be performed before vote is taken. "Catch22" 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 funds.

February 2001: HTO guarantees CSD \$67,000 in out-of-pocket expenses.

March 2001: HTO begins lobbying state officials for EIR grant approval.

September 2001: "South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer" grant awarded as "number one priority" by State Water Resources Control Board.

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 in Rincon file suit vs. EIR certification and the project. HTO hires Marco Gonzalez of Coast Law Group, Encinitas. 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: SB superior court throws out oppositions' complaint as "unintelligible." Complaint is revised and refiled.

May 2005: Opposition's 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 passes Resolution supporting sewer project (helpful if lawsuit is filed). Updated engineering starts on all communities in project (paid for by Santa Barbara County EHS out of Hannah-Beth Jackson funds, which will also pay for annexation and assessment engineering).

March 2006: Supplemental EIR (SEIR) work completed on Rincon part of project; 30-day public circulation to begin in April.

Next Steps: CSD approval of the sewer project. (Opponents have 30 days to sue after project approval, and if there is a lawsuit, Heal the Ocean is ready!)

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Printed on recycled paper
by Sunburst Printers
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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 "Genesis" article on our website HealTheOcean.org.

SEWER LATERAL ORDINANCE

Years ago, Heal the Ocean received a harrowing report from a homeowner in the Oak Park (Mission Creek watershed) area about the discovery that the sewer lateral from her home to the city's sewer main was "non-existent." The sewage was basically going directly into the ground, and when the ground was dug up, the smell and the pollution of the ground was "shocking!" Many homeowners in Santa Barbara have never replaced their old "orangeburg" laterals – an old style of pipe made of cardboard wrapped with tarpaper. Many homeowners don't realize that frequent calls to roto-roter companies are indicative of excessive root intrusion into the lateral pipe – which means a non-intact pipe. In the Oak Park case, there was no pipe at all, and the sewage was simply moving through a previously tunneled piece of ground.

This situation pushed HTO to lobby the city of Santa Barbara for a program of required maintenance of private sewer laterals, and at the end of 2004, Heal the Ocean and another environmental group began to work with the city on developing a sewer lateral inspection and repair ordinance. This has not been a smooth process. Local real estate agents turned out in force to object to the requirement that sewer laterals be

fixed "at the point of sale." There are also serious considerations for low-income homeowners, since fixing or replacing a sewer lateral can be expensive.

To date, a working committee consisting of city officials, real estate representatives and environmentalists (Heal the Ocean and Channelkeeper) has come up with some aspects for a sewer lateral ordinance everyone can agree on, which include:

A sewer lateral shall be inspected and repaired/replaced as necessary when:

- There is expansion/remodel to a property
- Addition of 2 or more new plumbing fixtures
- Chronic problems (backups, slow drains, excessive roto-roter calls)
- Sewage spill from the property
- Lateral fails a smoke test
- Problem identified during routine inspection

Heal the Ocean feels the ordinance has to include a few tougher measures, and we are working with the committee to sort out what's possible as well as financially realistic to homeowners.



HTO SEWAGE WORK HELPS CHILE SURF RESORT

In March 2005, Heal the Ocean released its survey, "Ocean Wastewater Discharge Inventory for the State of California," which is basically a tally of the amount of sewage discharged by California coastal communities directly into the Pacific Ocean.

The Inventory includes a list of sewage outfalls disposing wastewater into shallow depths very close to shore where people swim, as well as a report by Howard Kator, an environmental microbiologist commissioned by Heal the Ocean to research the health hazards of coming into contact with secondary-treated sewage.

In January 2006, we were contacted by the owners of a surf resort in Pichilemu, Chile, for help in combating the problem of raw sewage being dumped into an estuary near several world class surf breaks. When a proposal for the building of a sewer became subject to intense public disagreement, the surf resort owner contacted us for assistance.

As a result, our wastewater inventory has been translated into Spanish by Maria Auset Vallejo, Ph.D, and Heal the Ocean Inventario para el Estado de California de los Vertidos de Aguas Residuales al Océano will be accessible on our soon-to-debut new website.

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT UPGRADE

On December 14, 2005, the Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) filed with the Regional Water Quality Control Board its third Completion Report for upgrading its wastewater facility to full secondary treatment levels.

This report (filed two weeks ahead of schedule) included GSD's Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Facilities Planning Study for secondary upgrade (sent to 13 engineering consulting firms), as well as an RFP for Environmental Review of the treatment plant upgrade (sent to 7 environmental consulting firms).

According to the timetable adopted in the Settlement Agreement between GSD and the RWQCB on November 19, 2004, GSD will award the contract for Facilities Planning in the next few months, by June, 2006. The Draft Facilities Plan will be completed six months later, by December 31, 2006.

Heal the Ocean was successful in its years-long legal battle to overturn the 301(h) waiver that allowed GSD to dump into the ocean sewage that is not treated to full secondary levels. GSD will be completing its planning, permitting, financing and other steps for wastewater plant upgrade, and will begin actual construction five years from now – in April, 2011.



In the meantime, we at Heal the Ocean continue our work on refining data in the inventory, and at the same time are working on a strategy for development of new state regulations requiring the extension of sewer outfalls to a minimum distance of one mile from shore, or 60 feet of water, whichever comes first.

We also continue to expand on concepts laid down in a cost/feasibility report commissioned in 2001 by Heal the Ocean from Metcalf & Eddy engineers, San Diego, for tertiary sewage treatment upgrade.



RINCON SURFERS ARE THE BEST!

In 1999, Glenn Hening approached Heal the Ocean and made some inquiries as to how we are confronting the issue of septic pollution at the Rincon. Hening, the founder of the Groundswell Society, wanted to make sure that the proceeds from the annual Rincon Clean Water Classic went toward getting rid of the septic systems at this world class surf break.

The first event that benefited us went toward paying for the \$9,000 sewer engineering report for Rincon, and every year since, the Clean Water Classic proceeds have helped us work on the Rincon problem.

These great surfers helped us in February 2005, and then, for the 8th year in a row, on March 4-5, 2006. Hening pronounced this

last event as "the last planned Clean Water Classic – because in 2007 it will be the 'Cleaned Water Classic!'" At the closing award ceremony, Chumash leader (and Executive Director of Ventura Coastkeeper) Mati Waya blessed the Rincon, the event, those attending the event, and then conducted a special prayer for the people working on the Rincon problem – "including the lawyers."

Thank you, Mati Waya, for your prayers. Thank you, Glenn Hening, for believing in us in the beginning and through all these years. Thank you to all of the surfers who came from all over Southern California to surf and contribute to us. Your spirit and energy, not to mention your significant financial help (\$30,000+ over the past seven years) has made our victory possible.



Mike deGruy aboard surface support vessel during filming of *Aliens of the Deep*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heal the Ocean will have flags flying on State Street every year for the next five years, from August 18-28! We are very proud to have been invited by the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization's State Street Flag Program to participate in this colorful tradition, and please note that our August time-slot encompasses our birthday! Heal the Ocean was formed during a public demonstration on the County Administration Building on August 19, 1998.

The flags were designed by architect Steve Hausz from the original Heal the Ocean created by Chris Wilkinson of E-Wave, Santa Barbara... For the second year in a row, HTO has gladly contributed funds to keep the portable restrooms (Porta-Potties) in place at Santa Claus Lane, a project organized by the Santa Barbara chapter of the

Surfrider Foundation... During the Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans, 25 HTO tee-shirts went to Red Cross workers helping Katrina victims... Heal the Ocean was featured in a January 29, 2006 article in the Los Angeles Times, "Fighting Beach Pollution in the Lab"... World acclaimed underwater filmmaker and HTO advisory board member Mike deGruy, working with mega-producer James Cameron on "Aliens of the Deep," was captured on film aboard the surface support vessel wearing... wearing... a Heal the Ocean tee-Shirt!



JACK JOHNSON & HEAL THE OCEAN

In August 2005, Jack Johnson gave a sold-out performance at the Santa Barbara Bowl, and surprised a number of local environmental organizations with a split of 100% of his personal proceeds from the evening – which not only benefited Heal the Ocean, but the Environmental Defense Center and Channelkeeper, too.

Not only that, but as a member of 1% For the Planet (formed by Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, also a great HTO supporter!), Jack donates a percentage of all his concert proceeds to environmental organizations all over the world.

Then, on October 1, 2005, Jack and his wife, Kim showed up at our first annual Benefit Concert at QAD, and gave a performance that no one at our sold-out event will ever forget!

Jack is an honorary board member of Heal the Ocean, and has performed numerous times for us. His sold-out benefit concerts at the Arlington Theatre and Santa Barbara Bowl put our organization on a solid financial basis very early on in our history, and for this we owe him endless thanks.

Because he has linked us to his website – www.jack-johnsonmusic.com – Heal the Ocean's support has increased from around the country, and even the world. Thank you, Jack!



Jack Johnson at the HTO Benefit
Photo: Bret Gum

OUR INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISERS...

Thank you Mark Shields, for having a birthday party and asking that the gifts be donations to Heal the Ocean...we were flooded! (Heal the Ocean now has great gift cards that go out to the people being honored and to the families of people being remembered.)

We miss our wonderful Ann Marshall, who gave to Heal the Ocean since its inception every year before she passed away, and who is continuing to support us through her will.

The Santa Barbara Art Association staged another great art show of ocean-themed paintings and Gallery 113 and gave HTO a percentage of sales, which were brisk – thank you!

Thanks, J.P. Garcia and the Santa Barbara Seals, who held another successful Surf-a-thon at Refugio Beach, to raise money for Heal the Ocean.

And thanks again to the Santa Barbara Junior High School Surf Club for holding yet another successful event to help us.

You are all the greatest!



Marilyn Osborne Wilke/
Lynette R. Osborne Trust
Doug Margerum/Wine Cask
Duffy Witmer
Margaret Woodward
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To our Mystery Angel
To the wonderful supporter
who sent us \$40,000
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Thank You!
We are truly grateful.

TESTING, TESTING

In a concentrated effort to understand and eventually resolve ocean pollution, Heal the Ocean samples suspicious-looking creek or beach areas that are reported to us by the public. We also sample beaches for viruses and human bacteroides. Recent tests include:

Virus Testing August 2005

At the onset of the recent Fiesta celebration in Santa Barbara, on August 4, 2005, Heal the Ocean conducted a widespread virus/DNA testing of South Coast. Ocean water was collected from Goleta Beach, Goleta Slough, Hope Ranch Beach, Hope Ranch culvert (which drains onto Hope Ranch Beach), Arroyo Burro Beach, Arroyo Burro Creek, Leadbetter Beach, West Beach at Mission Creek, Butterfly Beach, Hammonds, Summerland Beach, and Carpinteria State Beach.

Three Mission Creek samples were collected by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from the Haley Drain area, the Gutierrez Street crossing, and from Old Mission Creek. (See page 1 of this newsletter about the USGS groundwater project.)

All 15 samples were analyzed by Dr. Jed Fuhrman in his USC laboratory for bacteroides (human-specific fecal bacteria) and human enterovirus (Hepatitis A). The Haley Drain area in Mission Creek yielded concrete evidence of human fecal contamination, and suspicions were raised about the samples from Hammonds, Hope Ranch Beach and West Beach. However, the reprocessing of these samples in the USC laboratory proved inconclusive.

Heal the Ocean will continue to conduct water tests for virus/bacteroides at a cost of \$12,000 per round. These tests are crucial to the well being of our beaches. We stress that these are not "regular" public service tests that provide a warning service as to whether it is safe or not safe to swim in the ocean. These tests are for the purpose of determining the actual causes of the pollution. Virus/bacteroides tests that come back positive indicate human origin.

Foam Attack at Arroyo Burro

In January 2006 Arroyo Burro Beach was covered with a thick foam – "suds," many people called it. Santa Barbara City Creeks Department analyzed foam samples for ABAS, a surfactant found in detergents – which turned up negative.



Arroyo Burro in suds, January 2006.
Photo by Jeff Maassen

After consulting with Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, about testing the foam, Heal the Ocean advisory board member Jeff Maassen delivered samples of the foam to a laboratory in the Los Angeles area for analysis by David Caron, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at USC. Dr. Caron found the foam samples showed "a few beat up colonies of what appeared to be Phaeocystis" – and stated that it appeared there had been "a fair-sized (algae) bloom going on just offshore, and the materials produced by this species got whipped up into foam and blown into shore."

Heal the Ocean is staying in touch with the laboratory about further testing, especially for excessive nutrients in Arroyo Burro Creek, if the phenomenon reoccurs.



HTO executive director Hillary Hauser and advisory board member Jeff Maassen dive the Goleta Sanitary District sewer outfall during a video made by Jim Knowlton. The film was pivotal evidence at the Regional Water Quality Control Board hearing about the extension of the district's sewage waiver. Result? We won! See the video on our website.

Tajiguas Landfill

During the heavy rains of January, 2006, Heal the Ocean tested the waters of Pila Creek, which runs through the Tajiguas Landfill.

Fruit Growers Laboratory (FGL) of Santa Paula, whose testing of Pila Creek has been recognized by Santa Barbara County, was hired by HTO on January 3, 2006 to sample for a multitude of pollutants in the creek. The FGL report reveals very high concentrations of coliform bacteria and heterotrophic bacteria. In addition, enterococcus levels in Pila Creek were far above state allowable amounts.

During the public process for the expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill, Heal the Ocean and the Gaviota Coast Conservancy discovered, and publicized, the fact that the unlined Tajiguas trash mass is saturated with groundwater. Over the objections of both our groups, Tajiguas was approved for the expansion, but the Regional Water Quality Control Board noted that Santa Barbara County "must contain the runoff from the Landfill," or face penalty – or even the possibility of closure.

Despite the repeated requests of Heal the Ocean and the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, the County does not test Pila Creek – even though this creek runs through the landfill to the sea. Instead, water quality tests had been performed at Arroyo Quemada, about a mile down the coast, but these have been discontinued.

Heal the Ocean will continue to test where it counts – Pila Creek – and we will be taking our results to the County and to the Regional Board.



HEAL THE OCEAN LEADS CHARGE AGAINST SEPTIC POLLUTION

In October 2005, residents along Orchard Avenue in Montecito voted to get rid of their septic tanks and hook up to the Montecito Sanitary District (MSD). This action was facilitated by Heal the Ocean, working with residents to provide information and costs, as well as encourage their signing of a petition to the MSD to request service.

At \$13,000 per property, the Orchard Avenue residents removed nearly two dozen septic leachfields from a shallow groundwater-creek area that drains, eventually, to the ocean. Heal the Ocean is currently repeating this exercise for Tabor Lane in Montecito, another creek area where lots are generally small.

In this manner, Heal the Ocean is working with sanitary districts and homeowners, neighborhood by neighborhood, to get septic systems out of inappropriate areas – along creeks or on beaches and lagoons, or where groundwater is shallow.

HTO has been collaborating with Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) on how monies should be allocated from a \$2 million fund brought into the county by former assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson for septic cleanup work. Our organization successfully provided the facilitating link between EHS and the city of Santa Barbara for a septic-to-sewer engineering study now being finalized for the 100+ homes of Braemar/Yankee Farm, a city area which drains into the Arroyo Burro watershed.

Hannah-Beth funds are also being used to update the sewer engineering plans for the "South Coast Beach Communities Septic-to-Sewer" project, which includes Rincon. (HTO is paying, up to \$48,000 to have the EIR work updated for the the project).

With Hannah-Beth funds, blueprint sewer engineering studies for the following city-wide "pocket" areas will also be done

- Veronica Springs area
- Northview Road/Vista Vallejo area
- Sunset Road/Fairfax Road area
- Calle Cita/Carol Avenue/Russell Way area
- Conejo Road (near Camino Alto)
- Eucalyptus Knolls (Barker Pass area)

In addition to working with homeowner groups within these "pocket" areas, Heal the Ocean will be collaborating with EHS on an upcoming presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on the best use of the rest of the Hannah-Beth funds, further recommendations which include:

A programmatic environmental impact report (EIR), to cover all projects for wastewater upgrade (not just sewer) in Santa Barbara county, where septic systems have proven to be a problem - \$250,000.

Septage Treatment Facility Preliminary Design (because septic waste is so heavily concentrated, septic waste haulers must take pumped material to Ventura or Santa Maria) - \$200,000.

Feasibility Design of Pressurized (STEP)

Collection Systems and Area-Specific Management Plans for Onsite Treatment Systems for clusters that don't specifically require sewers but which have reported problems, i.e., Hope Ranch, some Santa Ynez communities, Los Olivos, Hope Ranch, Casmalia, Toro Canyon, etc. (\$200,000 to \$600,000).

At Heal the Ocean we are very pleased to see the septic pollution problem is not only recognized by Santa Barbara County but by the state of California! When we formed in 1998, there was no such recognition. But, in 1999, when we initiated the DNA study of Rincon Lagoon (in collaboration with the County) in 1999, former assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson had been told by her stepdaughter that she had been "surfing in sewage" off Rincon. The intrepid Hannah-Beth immediately went down to the Rincon to have a look, and went back to Sacramento to author Assembly Bill 885 for the regulation of the 1.2 million septic systems in the state of California. In some areas, effluent and nitrates have shown up in drinking wells, and septic systems within 600 feet of a watershed have been found to be leaking into that watershed. There are 9,000 septic systems in Santa Barbara County alone.

Heal the Ocean has joined Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, in attending statewide public hearings to support AB 885, which is expected to become law by fall 2006.



THEN:

"We have no information about septic being anything bad..."

Santa Barbara Environmental Health Services Official

AUGUST 1998

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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 2005 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.

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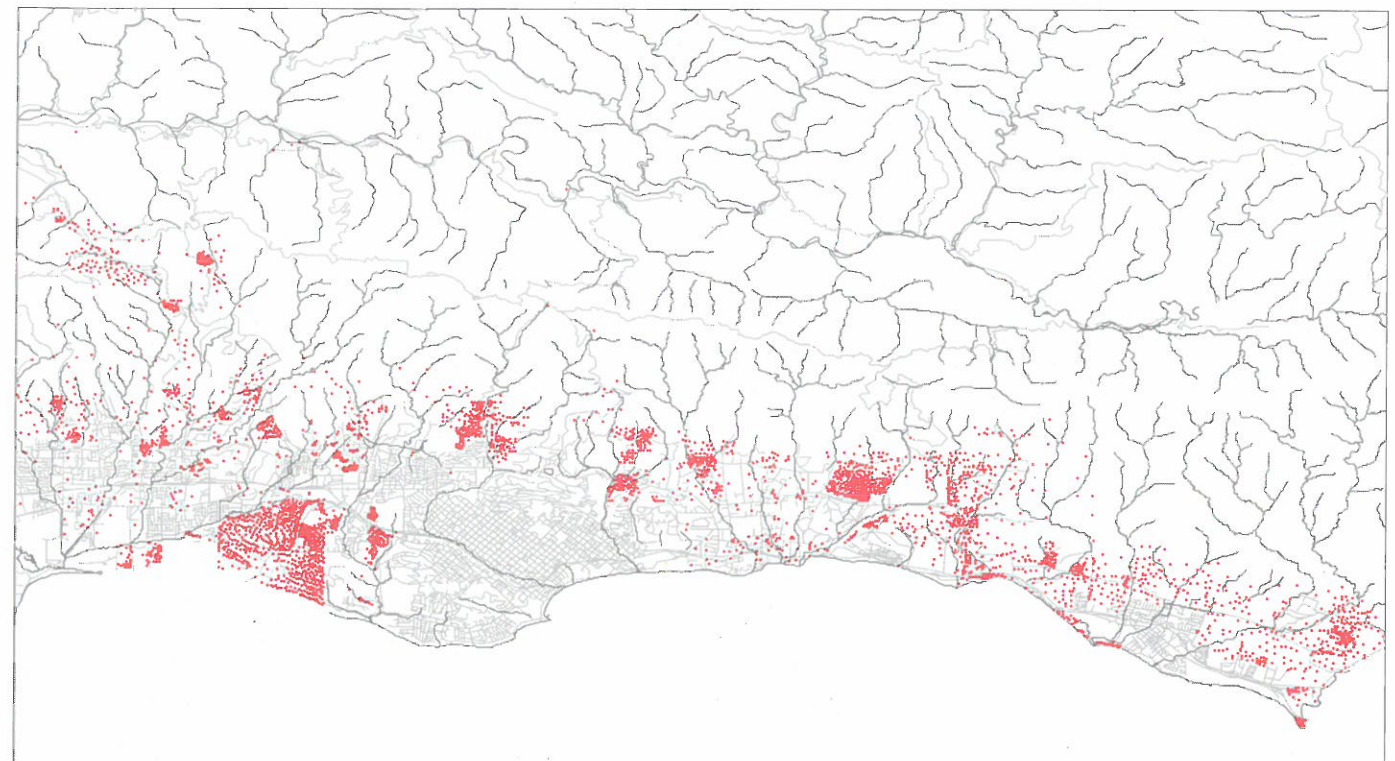
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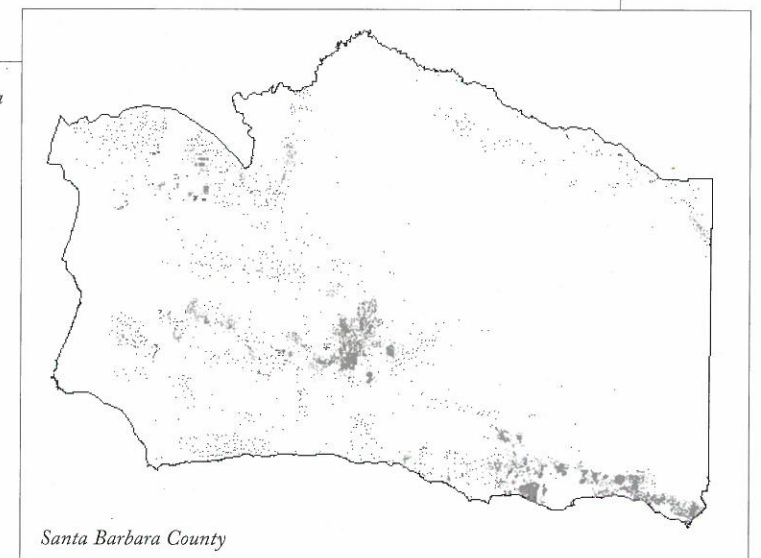
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Close up of the Santa Barbara County South Coast

Maps: GDM, Santa Barbara

Septic systems in Santa Barbara County: the red blotches indicate septic "clusters," or areas of heavy use. The big blotch in the middle of the county is Los Olivos/Santa Ynez area. The south coast map shows heavy concentrations along the coast and in creek areas, with the biggest cluster (at the left end of the coast) being Hope Ranch. These maps were made by GeoDigitalMapping, Santa Barbara, a business owned by HTO Board Member John Robinson. Before these maps were made (in 1999), nobody knew who was on sewer and who was on septic systems. This digital mapping of wastewater treatment is now in common usage around the state of California. John Robinson gifted Santa Barbara County with the first quadrant map, when it was completed, during a Board of Supervisors hearing in 1999.



Santa Barbara County

NOW:

"In groundwater, OWTS discharge plumes can remain intact for hundreds of feet."

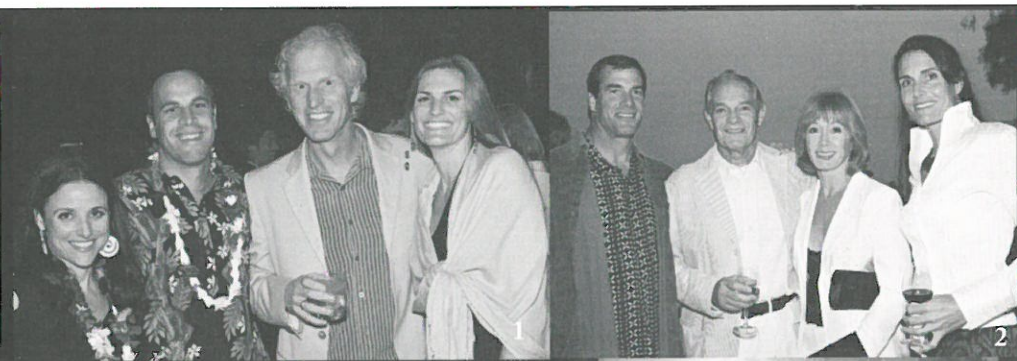
State Water Board Workshop

Information Item on Assembly Bill 885 for regulation of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS, or septic systems)

DECEMBER 2005

**OUR FIRST ANNUAL
BENEFIT CONCERT**

*A Sold Out
SMASH SUCCESS!*



ALL PHOTOS BY BRET GUM

“The party of the year!”

— that’s what the Santa Barbara News-Press called Heal the Ocean’s 1st Annual Benefit Concert ...October 1, 2005, at the dramatic, elegant offices of QAD, a high-tech company overlooking the ocean in Summerland...Dancers on the entry lawn, waving sea-luminescent fabric to create an illusion of ocean waves... *Julia Louis-Dreyfus*, the wonderfully funny star of “Seinfeld” and other television series and roles, making a witty opening to a sell-out crowd.

Ocean-explorer *Jean-Michel Cousteau* was there, so was U.S. Congresswoman *Lois Capps*, former assemblywoman *Hannah-Beth Jackson* and Superior Court Judge *Geórgie Eskin*, *Distinction* magazine editor *Holly Palance*, *Stephen & Carla Hahn*, and *Adam & Kara Rhodes* filled up two tables with friends who enthusiastically bought everything...HTO board member *Laura Lodato* chaired the event, with her pistol-packing benefit committee of 15 women planning all this for months...The

fog rolled in, and unexpectedly, the special lighting imported from Los Angeles turned the whole scene into a mysterious underwater-like set...Everyone drank wonderful wine donated by *Ron Melville* and other generous vintners...HTO executive director *Hillary Hauser* premiered “Another Day at the Beach,” a 4-minute film about the origins of Heal the Ocean, created by *Jim Knowlton* of Blue Ocean Productions, KYTD (Santa Barbara) radio personality *Matt McAllister* had everyone in

stitches with a fast-paced, hilarious auction, and Los Angeles pop star *Bonnie McKee* performed. Then, with heavier fog rolling up from the stage like a smoke machine at a rock concert, our dear friend *Jack Johnson* took the helm for the biggest surprise of all — a solo serenade of some of his most beloved hits, including “The Horizon has been Defeated,” and “A Pirate Looks at Forty.”

Over \$160,000 was raised for Heal the Ocean this night. Wow!



*Get ready for
the next
Heal the Ocean
Benefit Concert — on
September 30, 2006!*



1. *Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jack Johnson, Brad Hall and Kim Johnson*

2. *Adam Rhodes, Ron & Donna Melville, Kara Rhodes*

3. *Mark & Sheela Hunt, Tim & Melinda Werner*

4. *“The Rincon Rooters” — homeowners at Rincon supporting HTO*

5. *Laura Lodato, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Hannah-Beth Jackson*

6. *Robert Gelber, Nick & Leslie Lundgren*

7. *Jack Johnson*

8. *Holly Palance & Julia Louis-Dreyfus*

9. *Congresswoman Lois Capps, HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser, Nan Marr, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Hannah-Beth Jackson.*

10. *Matt McAllister and HTO board member Mike Lodato*

11. *Brian & Chari Coryat*

12. *Paula Stussy, Karen Bezuidenhout, Mattie Berglund*

13. *Laura Lodato*

14. *Kelly & Heather Clenet*

15. *Hannah Harte & Sara Farrar*

16. *Dan Emmett & Carole Halsted*

17. *Brian Hodges, Daniel Gibbings*

**The Big 15
Committee**

with Event Chair *Laura Lodato*, this gang of girls made our Benefit Concert a huge success!

<i>Karen Bezuidenhout</i>	<i>Tamara Feller</i>
<i>Kyle Brace</i>	<i>Nicola Ghersen</i>
<i>Ella Brittingham</i>	<i>Eileen Haber</i>
<i>Heather Clenet</i>	<i>Heather Hudson</i>
<i>Julie Collinson</i>	<i>Crummer</i>
<i>Tiffany Doré</i>	<i>Pat Kelley</i>
<i>Hilary Doubleday</i>	<i>Kara Rhodes</i>
<i>Sara Farrar</i>	<i>Paula Stussy</i>