



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Santa Cruz District
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018
(831) 335-6318 fax (831)335-6398

Ruth Coleman, Director

February 8, 2007

Ms. Tracie L. Billington, P.E.
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning & Local Assistance
901 P Street, Room 213-A, P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Shahla Farahnak
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
1001 "T" Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

It is my understanding that you have recommended Proposition 50 grant funding of \$12.5 million for the Northern Santa Cruz County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Implementation. One of the projects in this plan is the relocation of the sewer transmission line from New Brighton and Seacliff State Beaches. I am writing to stress the importance of this project and my support for your revised Proposition 50 grant funding recommendations.

The relocation of the Aptos Transmission main is an expensive, complex and necessary project undertaken, in part, to protect the resources of California State Parks and the waters of Monterey Bay. The Santa Cruz District of State Parks is working closely with the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District to complete the relocation of more than 3,000 linear feet of sewer main, and construction of new lift stations and park restrooms. Some existing pump stations and the old sewer line will be removed. The effect of this work, which will cost up to \$15 million, will be to completely remove the threat of a major spill onto two very popular state beaches that together receive over 4.1 million visits each year. The importance of this project cannot be overstated.

The urgency of the threat and potential impact to the State Parks, and the high costs associated with this proposed project, make funding assistance absolutely critical. The California Coastal Commission has concluded that it is not a matter of **if** this line will fail, but **when**. The line has failed at least four times already, closing beaches and polluting Monterey Bay. We urge you to adopt the revised funding recommendations and fund the IRWMP so that construction of this project can begin in Fall 2007.

Sincerely,

David K. Vincent,
District Superintendent