

## FW: Repurposing Diablo Canyon

Jocelyn Brennan

Mon 7/25/2016 11:54 AM

To: Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; Cherie McKee <cmckee@co.slo.ca.us>; Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>; Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>; Hannah Miller <hmiller@co.slo.ca.us>; Jennifer Caffee <jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us>; Vicki Shelby <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>;

Cc: cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

~ Jocelyn Brennan

**Legislative Assistant District 4**

**San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Lynn Compton**

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**From:** Betty Cary [mailto:bty8boop@att.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2016 4:32 PM

**To:** diablocanyon@pge.com; jshoals\_grover.org <jshoals@grover.org>; Jocelyn Brennan <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>; Hannah Miller <hmiller@co.slo.ca.us>; office@oceanocond.org; jhill\_arroyogrande.org <jhill@arroyogrande.org>; avilacsd\_gmail.com <avilacsd@gmail.com>; shigginbotham\_pismobeach.org <shigginbotham@pismobeach.org>

**Subject:** Repurposing Diablo Canyon

All of you have an opportunity within the next nine years to collaborate and brainstorm ways to repurpose Diablo Canyon from nuclear power generation to water conservation for San Luis Obispo County; specifically, the South County communities of Oceano, Pismo Beach, Avila Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach.

A county-backed plan was already in the making for piping excess water from the existing desalination plant at Diablo for these communities. A plan can and should proceed to provide a source of freshwater; not only as a drought measure but as a water conservation measure for the future.

Each of you has a stake in making this happen:

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PG&E will leave behind a legacy of the means to convert freshwater from seawater for San Luis Obispo County communities. There will no longer be a need to shut down all the facilities at Diablo Canyon; the desalination plant portion should remain open and operating. This will require a transition from operations using nuclear power to more natural methods using restorative, safe, and lasting energy sources such as wind, water (hydroelectric) and/or solar (which should work well for the Diablo Canyon location).

General Electric Company currently operates and maintains the desalination plant at Diablo Canyon. This is an opportunity to preserve some existing jobs and also create new ones.

San Luis Obispo County Supervisors and local government officials can't afford to let this opportunity pass by without taking action to supplement and generate freshwater for our citizens. There has been talk in the past about a desalination plant in our county; well, we already have one and not to take advantage of it and make it work for us would be a terrible waste and shame. We're already in a four-year drought and it doesn't appear it will get better in the near future. Since the mention of moratoriums on development doesn't seem to sit well with government officials, water is becoming even more scarce and crucial to the survival of our county and what is left of its agriculture (excluding vineyards which are now in abundance and require a lot of water).

Any potential harm to marine life from the desalination plant can possibly be mitigated by using multi-port diffusers on discharge pipes to promote mixing of salt brine, and using subsurface intakes, if not already being used.

This is the right thing to do, it should be done, and all of San Luis Obispo County will ultimately benefit from it.

Thank you,

Ms. Betty L. Cary

[bty8boop@att.net](mailto:bty8boop@att.net)

Sources:

The Tribune articles

[Key Issues in Seawater Desalination in California: Marine Impacts - Pacific Institute](#)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/desalination/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/desalination/)



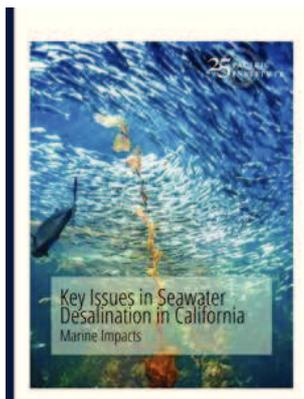
## Key Issues in Seawater Desalination in California: Marine Impacts

Published: December 11, 2013

Authors: Heather Cooley, Newsha Ajami, Matthew Heberger

<http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/12/desal-marine-impacts-full-report.pdf>) Desalination, like other major industrial processes, has environmental impacts that must be understood and mitigated. A [new report](http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/12/desal-marine-impacts-full-report.pdf) (<http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/12/desal-marine-impacts-full-report.pdf>) from the Pacific Institute examines effects on the marine environment associated with the construction and long-term operation of seawater desalination plants, including withdrawing water from the ocean and discharging the highly concentrated brine.

"If and when we build plants in California, we must ensure that the plants are built to the highest standards given what we know now," said Cooley. "Additionally, monitoring of existing and proposed desalination plants is crucial to improving our understanding of the sensitivity of the marine environment and helping promote more effective operation and design to minimize ecological and biological impacts in the future."



Modern reverse-osmosis desalination plants, such as those planned or proposed on the California coast, take in large volumes of seawater – generally two gallons are withdrawn for every gallon of freshwater produced – and pass it through fine-pored membranes to separate freshwater from salt. The highly concentrated brine is then typically disposed of back into the ocean.

With the majority of desalination plants extracting water directly through open water intakes in the ocean, there is a direct impact on marine life. Fish and other marine organisms are killed on the intake screens (impingement); organisms small enough to pass through, such as plankton, fish eggs, and larvae, are killed during processing of the salt water (entrainment). The impacts on the marine environment, even for a single desalination plant, may be subject to daily, seasonal, annual, and even decadal variation, and are likely to be species- and site-specific.

These impacts, however, are not well understood. More research is needed, especially to understand the long-term impacts. We do, however, know that there are several operational, design, and technological measures available to reduce the marine impacts of open water intakes. In particular, subsurface intakes can virtually eliminate impingement and entrainment, as they extract seawater from beneath the seafloor or a beach. The sand acts as a natural filter, providing a level of pre-filtration that can reduce plant chemical and energy use and long-term operating costs.

"Subsurface intakes are being used in a growing number of plants around the world, as new drilling technologies – like the directional drilling that has made hydraulic fracturing possible – have made subsurface intakes possible in more locations. Now, even where the site is surrounded by generally unfavorable conditions, it may be possible to find a pocket with the right ones," said Heather Cooley, co-director of the Pacific Institute Water Program.

Another major environmental challenge of desalination is the disposal of the highly concentrated salt brine that contains other chemicals used throughout the process. Because all large coastal seawater desalination plants discharge brine into oceans and estuaries, including all of the proposed plants in California, steps must be taken to ensure its safe disposal; at this stage, we know very little about the long-term impacts of brine disposal on the marine environment. Twice as saline as the ocean, the brine is denser than the waters into which it is discharged and tends to sink and slowly spread along the ocean floor, where there is typically little wave energy to mix it. There are several proven methods to disperse concentrated brine, such as multi-port diffusers placed on the discharge pipe to promote mixing. Brine can also be diluted with effluent from a wastewater treatment plant or with cooling water from a power plant or other industrial user, although these approaches have their own drawbacks that must be addressed.

The *Key Issues for Seawater Desalination* series is an update to the 2006 Pacific Institute report *Desalination with a Grain of Salt* (<http://pacinst.org/publication/desalination-with-a-grain-of-salt-a-california-perspective-2/>), which has proven to be an important tool used by policy makers, regulatory agencies, local communities, and environmental groups to raise and address problems with specific proposals. Researchers conducted some 25 one-on-one interviews with industry experts, environmental and community groups, and staff of water agencies and regulatory agencies to identify key outstanding issues for seawater desalination projects in California. The resulting reports address [proposed](#)

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energy and greenhouse gas emissions (<http://pacinst.org/publication/energy-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/>), and [marine impacts](http://www.pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts) ([www.pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts](http://www.pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts)).

Download the report (PDF). (<http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2013/12/desal-marine-impacts-full-report.pdf>)

Download the Series: **Key Issues in Seawater Desalination in California:**

<p>■ <b>Proposed Facilities</b>  <a href="http://pacinst.org/publication/key-issues-in-seawater-desalination-proposed-facilities/">(http://pacinst.org/publication/key-issues-in-seawater-desalination-proposed-facilities/)</a> (2012)</p>	<p>■ <b>Cost and Financing</b>  <a href="http://pacinst.org/publication/costs-and-financing-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/">(http://pacinst.org/publication/costs-and-financing-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/)</a>(2012)</p>	<p>■ <a href="http://pacinst.org/publication/costs-and-financing-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/">(http://pacinst.org/publication/costs-and-financing-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/)</a><b>Marine Impacts</b>  <a href="http://pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts/">(http://pacinst.org/publication/desal-marine-impacts/)</a> (2013)</p>
<p>■ <b>Desalination, With a Grain of Salt</b>  <a href="http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2015/01/desalination-grain-of-salt.pdf">http://pacinst.org/app/uploads/2015/01/desalination-grain-of-salt.pdf</a>(Full report, 2006)</p>	<p>■ <b>Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>  <a href="http://pacinst.org/publication/energy-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/">(http://pacinst.org/publication/energy-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-seawater-desalination-in-california/)</a> (2013)</p>	

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## Ocean Standards

### DESALINATION FACILITIES AND BRINE DISPOSAL

On May 6th, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved an amendment to the state's Water Quality Control Plan for the Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan) to address effects associated with the construction and operation of seawater desalination facilities (Desalination Amendment). The amendment supports the use of ocean water as a reliable supplement to traditional water supplies while protecting marine life and water quality. The desalination amendment will for the first time, provide a uniform, consistent process for permitting of seawater desalination facilities statewide. In doing so, it provides direction for regional water boards when permitting new or expanded facilities, and provides specific implementation and monitoring and reporting requirements.

Desalination facilities and brine disposal were identified as Issue Number 4 in the 2011-2013 [Triennial Review Workplan](#) because several [new desalination facilities](#) have been planned along the California coast to augment existing water supplies. The operation and construction of seawater desalination facilities can result in marine life mortality and harm to aquatic life beneficial uses. During the process of ocean desalination, organisms may be drawn in with the source water and enter the facility's water processing system. Salt and minerals are removed from salt water to produce fresh water and organisms do not survive the desalination process. The salt, minerals, and other compounds produced as a by-product of desalination are discharged into the ocean as hyper-saline brine. Brine is denser than the receiving ocean water and, depending on discharge methods, may settle on the seafloor and have adverse effect on marine organisms.

The Desalination Amendment requires new or expanded seawater desalination plants to use the best available, site, design, technology, and mitigation measures feasible to minimize intake and mortality of all forms of marine life. Based on the best available science, the amendment identifies preferred technologies; however, alternative intake and disposal methods can be used if demonstrated to be as protective of marine life as the preferred technologies. Additionally, mitigation measures are required in order to address damage to marine life that occurs after the best available site, design, and technology feasible are used. Determining whether or not a site, design, technology, and mitigation measure is feasible considers whether something is capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, and takes into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

#### QUICK LINKS

- [News](#)
- [Final Documentation](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Public Meetings](#)
- [Scientific Peer Review](#)
- [State Water Board Studies](#)
- [Questions or Comments](#)

#### News

- [The Office of Administrative Law approved the Desalination Amendment](#) on January 28, 2016.

#### Final Documentation

- [Final Desalination Amendment](#) – Adopted on May 6, 2015 Final Staff Report and Final Desalination Amendment, including the Final Substitute Environmental Documentation
- [The Office of Administrative Law approved the Desalination Amendment](#) on January 28, 2016.

#### Public Meetings

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➤ **Board Meeting - Consideration of Adoption of the Proposed Desalination Amendment – May 6, 2015**

- [Staff Presentation](#) - Claire Waggoner
- May 5, draft Final Desalination Amendment reflecting all [changes since March 20, 2015](#), including revisions in Change Sheet #1 and Change Sheet #2.
- [Change Sheet #2](#)
- [Change Sheet #1](#)
- [Revised Notice](#)
- [Public Notice](#)
  - [Comments Received by April 9, 2015](#)
- [Redline/Strikeout draft Final Desalination Amendment - April 24, 2015 version](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- April 24, 2015 Draft Final Staff Report with Draft Final Substitute Environmental Documentation:

<b>Document Link</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#">SR/SED</a>	Sections 1 to 13 April 24, 2015 version showing changes from the March 20, 2015 version in strikeout and underline.
<a href="#">Appendix A</a>	Ocean Plan with the proposed Desalination Amendment and other non-substantive changes in blue strikeout or underline
<a href="#">Appendix B</a>	Environmental Checklist
<a href="#">Appendix C</a>	Tables of Life History Information on Select California Marine Organisms
<a href="#">Appendix D</a>	Summary Tables of Entrainment Studies
<a href="#">Appendix E</a>	Guidance Documents for Assessing Entrainment Including Additional Information on the Following Loss Rate Models: Fecundity Hindcasting (FH), Adult Equivalent Loss (AEL) and Area Production Forgone using an Empirical Transport Model (ETM/APF)
<a href="#">Appendix F</a>	Summary Tables of Salinity and Brine Studies
<a href="#">Appendix G</a>	Economic Analysis
<a href="#">Appendix H</a>	Response to Public Comments received by August 19, 2014
<a href="#">Appendix I</a>	Responses to External Scientific Peer Review Comments
<a href="#">Appendix J</a>	Response to Public Comments received by April 9, 2015

- [Redline/Strikeout draft Final Desalination Amendment - March 20, 2015 version](#)
- March 20, 2015 Draft Final Staff Report with Draft Final SED:

<b>Document Link</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#">SR/SED</a>	Sections 1 to 13, March 20, 2015 version showing changes from the July 3, 2014 version in strikeout and underline.
<a href="#">Appendix A</a>	Ocean Plan with the proposed Desalination Amendment and other non-substantive changes in blue strikeout or underline
<a href="#">Appendix B</a>	Environmental Checklist
<a href="#">Appendix C</a>	Tables of Life History Information on Select California Marine Organisms
<a href="#">Appendix D</a>	Summary Tables of Entrainment Studies
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<a href="#">Appendix F</a>	Summary Tables of Salinity and Brine Studies

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<b>Document Link</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#">Appendix G</a>	Economic Analysis
<a href="#">Appendix H</a>	Response to Public Comments Received by August 19, 2014
<a href="#">Appendix I</a>	Responses to External Scientific Peer Review Comments

➤ **Public Hearing** - August 19, 2014

➤ [Public Notice](#)

- [Comments Received by August 19, 2014](#)

➤ [Proposed Desalination Amendment and Draft Staff Report, including the Draft Substitute Environmental Documentation](#) – July 3, 2014

- [Appendices](#)
- [Proposed Draft Desalination Amendment](#)

➤ [Presentation 8/19/14](#) - Claire Waggoner, SWRCB

➤ [Revised Presentation 8/22/14](#) - Claire Waggoner, SWRCB

➤ **Public Workshop** - August 6, 2014

➤ [Public Notice](#)

➤ [Presentation - Claire Waggoner, SWRCB](#)

➤ **Public Workshop** – September 23, 2013

Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for Ocean Waters to Address Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal

➤ [Public Notice](#)

➤ [Presentation – Dr. Michael S. Foster](#)

➤ [Presentation – Dr. Philip J.W. Roberts](#)

➤ [Presentation – Dr. Kristina Mead Vetter](#)

➤ [Presentation – Dr. Peter Raimondi](#)

➤ **Stakeholder Meeting at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories** – January 30, 2013

Discuss amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for Ocean Water and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries to Address Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal

➤ [Agenda](#)

➤ [Presentation – Dominic Gregorio, SWRCB](#)

➤ [Presentation – Tom Luster, California Coastal Commission](#)

➤ [Presentation – Rich Nagel, West Basin Municipal Water District](#)

➤ **Public Workshop** – August 22, 2012

Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for Ocean Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries to Address Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal

➤ [Rescheduled Public Notice](#)

➤ [Notice of Postponement](#)

➤ [Public Notice](#) (postponed)

➤ **CEQA Scoping Meeting** – March 30, 2012

➤ [Notice](#)

➤ [March 2012 Scoping Document](#)

➤ [Comments from Scoping Meeting](#)

➤ **Stakeholder Meeting** – April 18, 2011

- [Notice](#) - emailed on April 1, 2011
- [2011-2013 Triennial Review Workplan, Issue 4](#)
- [Comments and Response to Comments on Issue 4](#)
- [Staff Presentation](#)
- [Comments from the Coastal Commission](#), April 14, 2011

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### Scientific Peer Review

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 57004, the proposed Desalination Amendment and draft Staff Report, including the draft Substitute Environmental Document, were subject to external scientific peer review through an interagency agreement with the University of California. Peer review was solicited on June 18, 2014 and was completed on September 17, 2014. Responses to External Scientific Peer Review comments can be found in Appendix I of the draft Final Staff Report with draft Final SED associated with the draft Final Desalination Amendment.

- [Scientific Peer Review](#)

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### State Water Board Contracted Expert Panels and Studies

As part of the development of the amendment, staff has initiated four studies to gather scientific data and get technical input and scientific recommendations on key desalination issues. The three expert panels have finalized their findings and recommendations and an additional salinity toxicity study has also been completed.

#### Expert Panel III on Intake Impacts and Mitigation

The Expert Review Panel on Intake Impacts and Mitigation was reconvened to address the questions raised at the January 30, 2013 Stakeholder Meeting at Moss Landing Marine Laboratory. The State Water Board contracted with the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory to establish an expert panel to address issues associated with potential effects of discharge diffusers on marine life and provide a further explanation of the mitigation 'fee' approach for the entrainment impacts caused by surface intakes at desalination facilities. The panel members are Dr. Michael Foster, Dr. Gregor Cailliet, Dr. John Callaway, Dr. Kristina Mead Vetter, Dr. Peter Raimondi, and Dr. Philip Roberts.

A [Draft Report](#) was submitted to the State Water Board staff September 15, 2013. A [Final Report](#) was submitted on October 9, 2013.

#### Salinity Toxicity Studies

Researchers at the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory at Granite Canyon determined the tolerance of Ocean Plan test species to various concentrations of hyper-saline brine. Toxicity tests followed U.S. EPA methods. The results of the tests were used to calculate no observed effect concentrations (NOECs), lowest observed effect concentrations (LOECs), and median lethal or median effects concentrations (LC50 or EC50) for each test protocol and endpoint. Toxicity tests were also conducted using brine effluent samples from a desalination facility.

- Hyper-Salinity Toxicity Thresholds for Nine California Ocean Plan Toxicity Test Protocols
  - [Final Report](#) (posted August 1, 2012)
  - [Preliminary Draft of Final Report](#) (posted July 16, 2012)

#### Expert Panel II on Intake Impacts and Mitigation

The State Water Board contracted with the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory to establish an expert panel to address issues associated with minimizing and mitigating intake impacts from power plants and desalination facilities. The panel members were Dr. Michael Foster, Dr. Greg Cailliet, Dr. Jim Callaway, Dr. Pete Raimondi, and Mr. John Steinbeck. The panel met on August 8, 2011 and on November 15, 2011. A public meeting was held March 1, 2012 at the Moss Landing Marine where panel members presented their recommendations and took questions and

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comments from the public on the panel's [Draft Report](#). Updates were given on the other two studies. The panel members deliberated and made changes to their report, which was finalized on March 14, 2012 [Expert Review Panel on Intakes: Final Report](#).

### Expert Panel I on Impacts and Effects of Brine Discharges

The State Water Board contracted with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to establish a panel of experts in the fields of oceanography, plume modeling, ecotoxicology, and marine ecology to answer the following questions related to brine discharge:

1. What are the potential environmental impacts?
2. What disposal strategies will minimize impacts from brine discharges?
3. What models should be applied to predict how brine plumes will behave?
4. Can cumulative water quality effects associated with multiple brine plumes be evaluated with models?
5. What are appropriate monitoring strategies for brine discharges?

A public meeting was held July 5, 2011 in Sacramento to describe the project and solicit input regarding panel members and issues. The panel met several times to develop recommendations for the State Water Board. The panel released a draft report, solicited input from the public, and held a public meeting on December 8-9, 2011. The panel met again in February 2012 and submitted a [Final Report](#) with their findings and recommendations to the State Water Board. The related materials can be found on the [SCCWRP website](#).

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### Studies Submitted to the State Water Board

#### West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) High-Salinity Sensitivity Study

The WBMWD High Salinity Sensitivity Study evaluated the potential short-term and long-term exposure effects of high salinity discharges from the WBMWD Ocean Water Desalination Demonstration Facility (OWDDF) on aquatic organisms representative of communities indigenous to various near shore environments in Southern California. Short-term effects were evaluated using Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) bioassays developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to quantify the magnitude and threshold of potential biological effects of discharges (e.g. treated wastewater). Both acute toxicity (mortality effects) and chronic toxicity (mortality + sub-lethal effects) bioassays were performed by a state accredited bioassay laboratory. Long-term effects were evaluated using mesocosm procedures performed at the OWDDF by exposing multiple organisms for eight weeks to ambient seawater and diluted brine flows from the OWDDF in large aquaria constructed to simulate the OWDDF discharge environment.

- High-Salinity Sensitivity Study Short-and Long-Term Exposure Assessments
  - [Final Report](#) (50.2 MB)
  - [Draft Report](#)
  - [Review by Judith Weis](#)
  - [Review by Daniel Schlenk](#)

### Questions or Comments?

#### Please Contact:

- Kimberly Tenggardjaja, Statewide Policies and Planning Unit – email: [Kimberly.Tenggardjaja@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Tenggardjaja@waterboards.ca.gov) or phone 916.341.5473
- Claire Waggoner, Statewide Policies and Planning Unit Chief – email: [Claire.Waggoner@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Claire.Waggoner@waterboards.ca.gov) or phone 916.341.5582

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The State Water Board is one of six environmental entities operating under  
the authority of the California Environmental Protection Agency  
[Cal/EPA](#) | [ARB](#) | [CalRecycle](#) | [DPR](#) | [DTSC](#) | [OEHHA](#) | [SWRCB](#)

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# FW: Dream initiative

## Board of Supervisors

Mon 7/25/2016 1:17 PM

To: BOS\_Legislative Assistants <BOS\_Legislative-Assistants@co.slo.ca.us>; cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

For your review.  
This is a District 3 constituent.  
Thank you.

Blake Fixler  
Administrative Assistant III  
Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County  
[www.slocounty.ca.gov](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov)

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[www.youtube.com/user/slocountygov](http://www.youtube.com/user/slocountygov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Boyack [<mailto:slohotrod@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 12:33 PM

To: Board of Supervisors <Boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: Dream initiative

Please take this seriously and protect our coastal open space for the future Avila resident Michael Boyack

Sent from my iPhone 6s

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