

To: Andrew Barnsdale
California Public Utilities Commission
C/O Environmental Science Associates
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, Ca. 94108

From: Trevor Fay
Monterey Abalone Company
160 Wharf #2
Monterey, Ca. 93940

Regarding: Comments on your proposals effects on the local environment

Dear Andrew Barnsdale,

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on your proposal, with respect to concerns to the health of the Monterey Bay. I am not overly opposed to desalination projects, I am however opposed to dumping the toxic brine into our oceans.

I am an abalone farmer and scientific collector of marine organisms for education and research. My business partner and I have an in-ocean abalone farm under the commercial wharf in Monterey, and an abalone hatchery at Moss Landing. Your proposed project is somewhere in between our operations. I have spent a good part of my life on and in the waters of the Santa Monica and Monterey Bays. I know first hand the sight, smell, taste, burning of the eyes, infections and ailments associated with contact with the seawater near sewage outfalls. I've also witnessed first hand the affects of these outfalls on the environment and it's inhabitants, waste barrens and tumors on fish.

I'd like to point out that discharging any waste into our coastal waters is not a good thing. It is toxic and harmful to any marine organisms that come in contact with it. This accepted level of pollution comes at a cost. It is acceptable only because it is the cheapest method for our cities, not necessarily the best or only method for treating waste. Unfortunately our oceans always have been and probably always will be our convenient dumping grounds for our waste.

This project comes at a time when huge strides forward have been made in revitalizing our depleted oceans.

*Once through cooling has been acknowledged as extremely detrimental to a healthy ecosystem by killing larval by the uncountable trillions and is being phased out at coastal power plants.

*Marine Protected Areas, whether they are supported by local user groups or not are established and here to stay as a means of protection of our ocean recourses and wildlife.

*California also has some of the strictest, highest regulated, some say best managed fisheries in the world.

It also comes at a time when our oceans are seeing large scale man made impacts.

- *Ocean acidification, a process which dissolves the shell of shellfish as it's forming.
- *Harmful algae blooms, natural and more often than not caused by human activities.
- *Little understood outbreaks of disease like starfish wasting disease. Not only has this disease decimated star populations on the entire west coast, it has now begun to affect sea urchin populations in Southern California. Both impacts in turn throw the entire ecosystem out of balance.

My personal position as an abalone farmer is from an aqua-culturist point of view. As our oceans natural resources are at carrying capacity or depleted all together, sustainable aquaculture is going to be paramount in growing protein for our growing global population. Monterey Bay has potential to be a major hub for future aquaculture operations. Pristine oceans will be vital for this to occur.

As most of us know the ocean is just one big chemical reaction. We can not keep dumping our waste into it and not expect consequences to come of it. We as a society have created many large scale mistakes in our oceans and are not very good at fixing them after the fact. It is only my opinion that we have taken a good step forward in fixing some of these problems. Adding more toxic waste in the form of brine to toxic sewage would be equal to taking two steps backwards. Not a good idea.

I don't have the answers to our water shortage, nor do I have suggestions for an alternate disposal method for the brine. I have also steered clear from commenting on what got us into this predicament in the first place. I am however grateful for this opportunity to speak up on behalf of the health of the Monterey Bay, it's inhabitants, and it's future.

Respectfully,

Trevor Fay
Chairman of the Board
Monterey Abalone Company