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Dear Commission on Ocean Policy,

I have been a resident of Calif. for 34 years and feel that there has been a steady decline in the maintenance of ocean water quality at the local beaches. Huntington Beach has a section of beach that has persistent water quality problems and beach closures. The real estate in that area is depressed (the only area in Orange County with depressed real estate prices). My son became extremely ill after surfing on Torrance Beach after a storm several years ago. Raw sewage is dumped at the beaches during any storm where the sewage treatment plants are flooded and all outflow from the plant is dumped at the beaches to avoid flooding of the treatment plant. This problem occurs frequently during the winter rain season and the beaches are posted as polluted and unfit for swimming.

There is a water shortage problem in this area which could be relieved if sewage would be treated through primary and secondary processes so that the water could be recycled and not dumped (partially treated) into the ocean. Presently Los Angeles County dumps into a 1000 ft. deep trench between LA and Catalina island. Orange County dumps into a shallower region and seems to have a backflow onto Huntington Beach. This has not been proven conclusively but it seems that a better investigation could clarify the situation.

I think it is time for LA and Orange County to foot the bill and clean up the ocean.

Fishing restrictions should be tightened since many species of ocean life are diminishing rapidly.

Thank you
William Latto