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Sent: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 11:13 AM

To: Ann Yang <anny@hermosabch.org>

Subject: New eComment for City Council Meeting (Closed Session - 6:00 P.M. and Regular Meeting - 7:00 P.M.)

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Annelisa Moe submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council Meeting (Closed Session - 6:00 P.M. and Regular Meeting - 7:00 P.M.)

Item: 6a) REPORT 18-0616 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE GREENBELT INFILTRATION PROJECT (Environmental Analyst Kristy Morris)

eComment: Mayor Jeff Duclos, Mayor Pro Tem Stacey Armato and members of the Hermosa Beach City Council: Heal the Bay is a nonprofit organization with over 30 years of experience and 15,000 members dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy and clean. On behalf of Heal the Bay, we respectfully submit the following comments in support of the Hermosa Beach Greenbelt Infiltration Project. Stormwater runoff is now the number one source of pollution in our rivers, lakes and ocean. The highly urbanized watersheds of LA County allow billions of gallons of stormwater to flow directly to the ocean, taking oil, trash, fecal bacteria and other contaminants with it. This poses a serious risk to public and environmental health, and brings water quality below federal standards, leaving cities vulnerable to violation fines up to \$25,000 per day in the near future. The Herondo Drain outfall is the largest storm drain in the Beach Cities watershed area. Heal the Bay has been monitoring water quality at the Herondo St. Storm Drain site for over twenty years. This site has received an annual F grade during wet weather 17 times on the Heal the Bay Beach Report Card. Since 2000, it has not received an annual wet weather grade above a C, and has received an annual F grade during wet weather for 85% of the past 19 years. Fecal Indicator Bacteria levels this high increase the risk of gastrointestinal illness for any Hermosa Beach resident and visitor that comes in contact with this contaminated stormwater runoff. In order to protect our environment, protect the health of residents and visitors of the Beach Cities community, and be in compliance with federal law, the pollution from stormwater discharge at the Herondo Drain outfall must be addressed. The Hermosa Beach Greenbelt Infiltration Projects does just that: addresses stormwater discharge from the Herondo Drain outfall. This projects was identified through technical modeling as the highest priority project with the greatest reduction in pollutant discharge. As a project of the Enhanced Water Management Program (EWMP), it will also

provide multiple benefits to the local community, including those who reside within 500 feet of the proposed project site, by utilizing nature based solutions for pollutant remediation. Additionally, the investment that has been made in development of this project is significant. We are concerned that considering alternative project locations to address the stormwater discharge from the Herondo Drain outfall would increase project cost, and delay project completion, potentially leaving all cities under the Beach Cities EWMP group in violation of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. However, we encourage the City to conduct additional community outreach as the planning continues for this important project. Thorough public review of a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for this project will ensure that benefits of the project are maximized, and that any nuisance is minimized both during construction and after project completion. Heal the Bay intends to participate in public review of the DEIR to ensure that public and environmental health is protected, that the community in the immediate project area receive the additional community investment assured by the EWMP, and that any negative impacts from this project are minimized. We request that an investigation of each of the proposed alternative sites be included in the DEIR, particularly the South Park Project, which seems to be the most feasible alternative to the Hermosa Beach Greenbelt Infiltration Project. However, considering the benefits of the greenbelt project and the investment that has been made in development of this project, it should remain a high priority for the Beach Cities EWMP group. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Annelisa Moe at (310) 451-1500 X139 or amoe@healthebay.org. Sincerely, Annelisa Moe Water Quality Scientist Heal the Bay

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