



SANTA BARBARA
CHANNELKEEPER®

Protecting and Restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and Its Watersheds

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February 9, 2008

City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Attention: Liz Smith - Creeks Program Assistant

Re: Laguna Creek Fence at Yanonali Street

Dear Ms. Smith,

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (Channelkeeper) would like to express to the Creeks Committee our support for the Laguna Creek fence at Yanonali Street project. Channelkeeper is very concerned about the reported frequency that the City is required to contract with Service Master to clean trash and waste from the creek. We are grateful that the City invests in cleaning activities when problems are detected. However, the continual observations of human waste, repeated necessity of hiring Service Master, and detections of human waster markers downstream of the site indicate a significant and ongoing water quality problem.

We believe that preventative measures to ensure that human waste and trash do not enter the creek in the first place should be implemented. Along these lines, a fence that excludes individuals from entering the creek corridor in a location prone to pollution would be a wise and prudent investment. We would also like to recommend that the City consider further measures, such as the placement of additional portable toilets at the site. Although a fence may make it harder to enter the creek, its construction will not address the root source of the problem, which is the large number of individuals congregating at the area each morning. Understanding that this source is not likely to shrink or relocate in the near future, we believe that additional portable toilets will provide an environmentally beneficial and humane alternative.

Channelkeeper would like to thank the City for addressing this issue and we support the City's commitment to improve water quality in Laguna Creek.

Respectfully,

Ben Pitterle
Watershed Programs Director
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper