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# Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE CLEAN WATER ISSUE

## Beachgoers to benefit from EPA settlement

BY CHRISTINA WALKER  
Special to the Daily Press

**SM BAY** A settlement was reached last week with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District sued the agency for failing to meet its obligations under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Plan Act of 2000.

The act was designed to improve public health through beach monitoring and notification programs as well as higher water quality standards. In October of 2000 congress ordered the EPA to create new water quality standards for national beaches by 2005. The new standards were to be based on current studies conducted by the EPA on the human health impacts of bacteria and viruses in coastal waters. The NRDC decided to sue the EPA after it failed to meet those deadlines. Under last week's settlement the EPA will be required to provide new criteria by 2012.

"It's good news," said Aaron Colangelo, attorney for the NRDC referring to the settlement. "It's unfortunate that we had to sue the EPA to get them to take the necessary steps, but the agreement they signed onto will lead to better safety standards and fewer illnesses for those people who swim at the beach."

Current public water and beach safety regulations were adopted in 1985 and based on research done in the 1970s. That research did not include the health effects of people swimming in water contaminated by urban runoff such as the water found off local beaches.

Enesta Jones, spokesperson for the EPA, said prior to 2005 the agency completed research associated with creating new recreational water quality criteria including several epidemiology studies. The studies raised additional questions and EPA said it needed to conduct more scientific research before the new criteria could be created.

"Getting these new criteria right is impor-

SEE SETTLEMENT PAGE 12



Brandon Wise [brandonw@smdp.com](mailto:brandonw@smdp.com)

**SPLISH SPLASH:** Jose Huizar and his family from Altadena enjoy a day at Santa Monica Beach on Tuesday. A settlement will prompt the EPA to develop new water safety standards.

## Prop T gets big support from county Democrats

BY MELODY HANATANI  
Daily Press Staff Writer

**LOS ANGELES** A campaign that wants to institute a commercial development ceiling in Santa Monica got a major boost on Tuesday when a sponsored ballot measure and one of its biggest proponents received endorsements from a major political player.

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party voted to support Proposition T — also known as the Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic — and City Council candidate Ted Winterer, one of the authors of the contentious proposal that will be presented to residents in the November election.

If approved, the measure, which is sponsored by the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, would put into place a 75,000-square-foot cap on new commercial growth for the next 15 years.

"This is a very powerful endorsement of Proposition T and one of its authors by the Democratic Party," Diana Gordon, who chairs the coalition, said.

Winterer, who serves on the Recreation and Parks Commission and is the president of the Ocean Park Association, was endorsed along with council incumbents Richard Bloom, Bobby Shriver and Ken Genser for the four open seats. Mayor Herb Katz was the lone incumbent who did not secure an endorsement.

"It's incredibly significant to me and a great kick off to my campaign," Winterer said.

The incumbents all attended the Democratic Party meeting instead of a regularly scheduled council meeting that night, leaving the dais without the four members necessary for a quorum. The meeting was canceled and rescheduled for next Tuesday.

All four candidates who received the nod from the party were recommended for endorsements by the 41st Assembly District Delegation, which interviewed all candidates and later forwarded their suggestions to the Central Committee, making the decisions final on Tuesday.

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# Democrats back latest SMC bond

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The party consists of 26 Assembly district delegations, whose members are elected during every other primary elections. The delegation interviewed candidates on Sept. 7 and the committee acted on the recommendations — as well as those from seven others — during its meeting at the United Teachers Los Angeles Auditorium in Koreatown.

The endorsement came a week after Winterer failed to earn one from the Santa Monica Democratic Club despite receiving the recommendation by its steering committee.

The committee also suggested supporting Shriver, Genser and Bloom, the latter two of which ultimately received endorsements.

Katz, a life-long Democrat, did not attend the Democratic Club meeting last week.

First elected to the council in 2000, Katz has been a Democrat since he registered in 1952, voting for Adlai Stevenson in his presidential bid against Dwight Eisenhower.

Katz said he has heard different reasons as to why he wasn't chosen, including one that the party did not want to endorse four incumbents.

"I was perturbed because I thought I should've been," he said.

The endorsement of Proposition T should lend strong support to the cause, Gordon said, pointing out that the recommendations for the ballot measures were made by a committee that specializes in analyzing initiatives.

"They believe it's well written and deserving of full community support," she said.

The party also voted to back the Utility

IT'S INCREDIBLY SIGNIFICANT TO ME AND A GREAT KICK OFF TO MY CAMPAIGN."

Ted Winterer  
City Council candidate

User's Tax, which seeks to modernize the tax on telecommunications, and a \$295 million Santa Monica College bond measure, which will pay for capital projects.

School Board candidates Ben Allen, Chris Bley and incumbent Maria Leon-Vazquez also received support.

Ralph Mechur, who is vying to fulfill the remaining two years on former board member Emily Bloomfield's term, was also endorsed.

Incumbent Jose Escarce was not able to make the meeting because of scheduling conflicts.

The three college Board of Trustees candidates — Margaret Q. Quiñónez-Pérez, Susan Aminoff and Rob Rader — also joined the list of endorsees.

The endorsement is one of the first from a major party that Bley has earned, having previously been snubbed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

"I think it's good that people are seeing I have support and show there is an independent voice out there that is backed up," Bley said.

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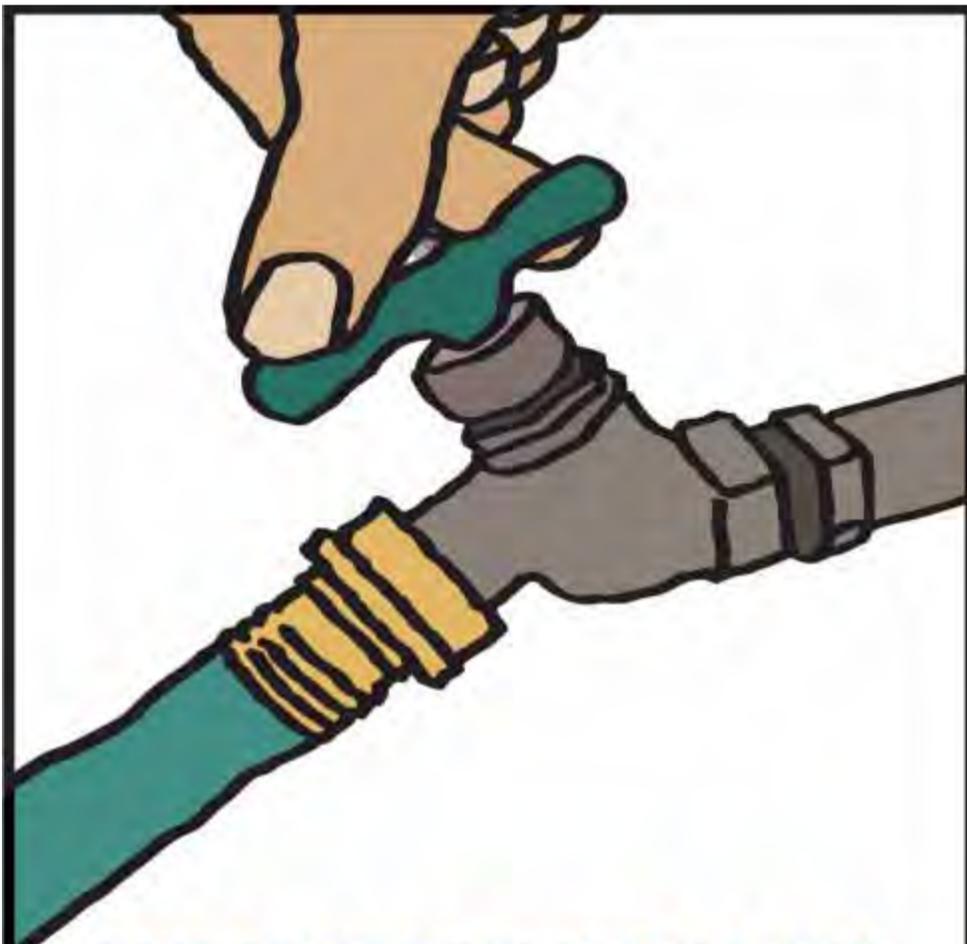
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A message from the Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County's Water Agencies



# Agency to develop new water safety standards

FROM SETTLEMENT PAGE 1

tant for public health and for local communities and the EPA is committed to getting all critical studies done to ensure a strong scientific foundation for the new criteria," Jones said.

Kurjon Lee, public information officer for the County of Los Angeles Public Works Department, said that his agency will be happy to get the new scientific research the EPA will provide.

The Los Angeles Public Works Department is held responsible for contaminants found at Los Angeles beaches. The new regulations created by the EPA will help the department to know whether current bacteria at beaches and in the water is causing people to become ill Lee said.

Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, is also very excited by news of the settlement.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "We're ecstatic that the EPA will finally move forward updating the criteria on public health."

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IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT WE HAD TO SUE THE EPA TO GET THEM TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS, BUT THE AGREEMENT THEY SIGNED ONTO WILL LEAD TO BETTER SAFETY STANDARDS AND FEWER ILLNESSES FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO SWIM AT THE BEACH."

Aaron Colangelo  
Attorney for the NRDC