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Leo Martin  
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November 28, 2006

Dear Leo,

We have addressed several of the comments provided by citizens in our draft report for Goose Rocks Beach. Here is what was addressed in the revised report (which has been sent separately):

**Mr. Parker Dwelley's comments:**

1) Provide an overlay on one of the GRB maps showing the location of the public sewer lines.....

*We included a new map in the Appendix of the sewer infrastructure in the watershed (Appendix B, Map B12).*

2) Investigate the changes in marsh areas over the last 50-75 years.....

*We did not address this question - it is beyond the scope of the project.*

**Dr. Steve Hanna's Comments:**

General comment 2 - More explanation is needed of the meaning of "bacterial" and "fluorescence" concentrations. This report is for a lay audience who are mostly unfamiliar with the specific terminology. The same applies to several other discussions in the report, such as "ebb" and "flood". It is better to err on the side of over-defining terms, so that everyone can understand the discussions.

*We added a Glossary of Terms (Appendix E, Pages 71-72) to clarify some of the important terms in the report.*

General comment 3 - In section 1.1 of the Executive Summary and in many other places, the term "hot spots assessment" is used. The word "assessment" suggests that concentration observed data were used. However, the hot spots are estimated based on a series of weights using criteria such as nearness to a septic system etc. I suggest changing the term to "hot spots estimation" or "hot spots forecast" or "potential hot-

spots” or some other more vague term that is representative of what was actually done. Incidentally, how was the weighting scheme devised? Shouldn't some criteria receive higher weights than others?

*We changed "Assessment" to "Identification" within the report. We also refer to hot spots "Evaluation", which we left as is.*

General comment 5 – The so-called Quality Assurance Project Plan (bottom of p 10 and top of p 11) should be more completely described. The uncertainty in each type of measurement should be stated (e.g., plus and minus 10% is expected to encompass 95 % or the error). This is a standard requirement in my air quality monitoring studies and the journal editors do not allow any data to appear without error bars. Furthermore, the instrument threshold should be stated (such as, at concentrations below Y, the error is as large as or greater than the measurement and therefore these low observations should not be used). Sometimes there also is an upper limit to the concentration that may be measured by an instrument (the instrument is said to “peg” at that value).

*We included a more detailed explanation of the enterococci detection limits, measurement range, precision and accuracy on page 10. The fluorometry lab methods are explained on page 12 and we refer to that explanation in the paragraph in question on page 10.*

General comment 6 – Related to the above, what were the acceptance criteria for the enterococci and the optical brightener data? I see that the enterococci data were accepted and used but the optical brightener (fluorescence) data were stated to have problems. And if there were problems with the fluorescence data, then why are some of them still reported?

*Again, we included the acceptance criteria for enterococci.*

General comment 10 – The data tables and plots in the appendices may be understandable to water quality environmental specialists, but more definitions and explanations are needed for a lay audience.

*We reference the Appendix of graphs within the text of the report to make it clear that the explanations within the report are explaining the results on the graphs.*

Thanks again to both gentlemen for providing comments.

Please feel free to contact me at 650-7597 with any questions that you or your staff may have.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work for your municipality.

Sincerely,

Forrest Bell  
Owner, FB Environmental