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DATE	APR 26 2012
RECD.	APR 27 2012

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Commissioner Douglas: 4-26-2012

Whereas the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation remains neutral on the ongoing Power Plant discussion, we'd like to take this opportunity to describe our past, present and future relations with NRG. Our mission is to **inspire people to care about balanced, responsible, shared use of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.**

We are open to the public, but we primarily serve families with school-age kids who care about the environment and the local community. We are a teaching hub of the community. Our visitors come to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's Discovery Center for active ways to involve their kids in fun, hands-on, educational experiences that give them a sense of accomplishment.

By providing direct access to nature, we uniquely offer fun, interactive experiences with the diverse bodies that rely on the Lagoon. We do this differently from others by also offering educational experiences that focus on the hands-on doing (and not just the viewing) of how people and wildlife depend on active watershed management.

We welcome NRG as a committed partner toward this end. Their direct participation in furthering our mission has been in trail maintenance, financial support toward ongoing operations, participating on our board of directors, and sponsorships for many of the fundraising events we conduct each year. Last year, they sponsored 10 Marines for the Kayak Regatta.

One of our most memorable challenges in recent years was the eradication of the dangerously invasive seaweed that took root in our lagoon. *Caulerpataxifolia* was discovered in Agua Hedionda Lagoon in June 2000. It has been nicknamed "killer algae" because of its devastating effect on marine ecology. It is extremely fast growing, and if allowed to become permanently established can destroy and replace coastal marine life such as kelp forests which are home to a wide variety of fish, marine mammals and seabirds. Large areas of the Mediterranean Sea and several sites along the eastern Australian coastline already have been tragically and irreversibly affected.

In an emergency response to this major threat to the health of our lagoon, the Southern California *Caulerpa* Action Team (SCCAT) was formed to respond quickly to the invasion. Past board members have shared with me the lead that NRG took toward this effort. We were proud to have the grant monies administered through AHLF. Many hours were dedicated to this effort.

In closing, the foundation values the relationship with NRG as a good neighbor and corporate business sponsor. We look forward to our continued relationship, and as a foundation remain committed to our established stance on neutrality, as it relates to the Power Plant and other political/development issues that arise from time to time in our great community.

Sincerely,

D. Michael Metts
Chairman

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