



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

June 3, 2014

Ms. Mara Dias
Water Quality Manager
Surfrider Foundation
P.O. Box 6010
San Clemente, California 92674

Dear Ms. Dias:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2014, to Administrator McCarthy, in which you expressed concern about the elimination of federal funding for BEACH Act grants to states. As you know, the Congress restored beach grant funding for FY 2014, and there are bipartisan efforts in both the House and the Senate to restore funding for FY 2015.

EPA's budget request for the 2015 fiscal year starting October 1, 2014, reflected our ongoing efforts to meet the challenges facing the agency today and into the future. Despite these challenges, we remain dedicated to protecting public health and the environment, and we know we must target staff and resources and find new ways to fulfill our mission and we have made some very difficult choices. The budget reflected a strategic approach to our budget planning process, looking toward the future rather than continuing to simply react to tough budget choices with cuts across the Agency. We believe that our final FY 2015 budget reflected a balanced approach to accomplishing the need to look realistically at challenges we face in the future and make sure we have the best tools and people in the right places to make the most difference.

The BEACH Act grants have supported states in acquiring the technical expertise, infrastructure and procedures for effective beach monitoring and notification programs. To protect the health of their beachgoers and maintain tourism revenues, it is in the states' best interest to continue to build upon these advances by using their own funds to continue these important public health programs if federal grants are no longer available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Hisel-McCoy".

Sara Hisel-McCoy, Director
Standards and Health Protection Division