

May 31, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Janice Villarreal and I am a junior at CALS Early College High School in downtown Los Angeles. I have joined an environmental club called the Mean Green Team and we have an incredible passion for making sure that our community is a clean and healthy place to live in. Some ways that we have helped aid our community is by starting a recycling program at our school, various clean ups at beaches, and the Los Angeles River, and planted trees at a new local park. But one of our biggest concerns is the water quality in Los Angeles.

A few members of the Mean Green Team entered a contest last fall and did a research project on the water quality of Los Angeles. These students tested the water at the San Gabriel watershed, Los Angeles River watershed, and various areas along Santa Monica Bay. What they found was that there is relatively low pH of ocean water along the Santa Monica Bay. What this means is that the ocean water has absorbed a lot of CO₂ due to all the traffic here in LA.

The beach is one of the most popular places to be when you are in Los Angeles or even just in California. A nonprofit organization called Heal the Bay gives many beaches in California a report card. These beach report cards are conducted by analyzing water samples from each beach that might indicate bacteria that can cause may cause human illness. If a beach receives a high grade, that indicated a lower risk of illness for ocean users. Unfortunately, seven of the most polluted beaches in California were right here in the LA County.

So as you can see, we have a problem with our beaches in California. The Mean Green Team is dedicated to work hard to make our beaches the cleanest and healthiest beaches possible but we can only go so far. In this letter we ask for assistance to help improve our beaches and make them the best that they can possibly be.

Sincerely,

Janice Villarreal

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