



ORANGE COUNTY
COASTKEEPER
EDUCATION / ADVOCACY / RESTORATION / ENFORCEMENT

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Letter to the Editor from the Orange County Coastkeeper:

This summer, Tustin residents and millions of people will visit our beautiful Orange County harbors and beaches. Coastkeeper's goal is to protect and preserve all of Orange County's water systems. With that goal in mind, we are concerned about the controversy over water and grading permits required by the City of Tustin. The TUSD refuses to comply with these important regulations. The City of Tustin is within the San Diego Creek Watershed area which ultimately empties into Upper Newport Bay. It is important that TUSD work with the city's storm water runoff system in order to keep our beaches and waterways clean. State law requires that construction projects obtain these permits, in order to ensure that water runoff will meet safety standards to reduce pollution downstream. School districts are not exempt from compliance to federal, state and local water quality laws. Runoff management plans must conform to the local jurisdiction's sewer and runoff system. TUSD is using public money to sue the City for its right to pollute—an outrageous waste of public resources, particularly given the fiscal crisis most government entities now find themselves. We urge sanity and a quick negotiated settlement.

Coastkeeper strongly encourages TUSD to follow all environmental protection laws to protect our region's wetlands, rivers, harbors, and beaches. Many Tustin school children have participated in our watershed education programs. On behalf of the students, and beach lovers everywhere, we urge TUSD to resolve the permit issue with the City of Tustin and to help us keep our beaches beautiful.

Sincerely,

Garry Brown
Executive Director
Orange County Coastkeeper