Three priorities of your association over the past year have been beach water quality, the landmarking and preservation of the Canyon Service Station structure and monitoring the Proposition K improvement project and Rustic Canyon Park.

The **Canyon Service Station** project is underway with construction beginning on the site last Thursday. Numerous permits and approvals are required for work on an historic structure and all have now been obtained. The project will create an environmentally friendly "green" building. All demolition materials from the site, primarily the concrete apron, will be reused for walls that are part of the project. The owner is an architect, Scott Prentice, who lives next door to the station and is constructing space for his practice in the historic structure. Mr. Prentice believes he is on schedule to complete the project in August.

Yesterday's apron and sidewalk, tomorrow's walls.

Beach water quality problem. Last week, Heal the Bay again gave our beach its lowest rating, an "F." The only other similarly rated beach was Malibu Lagoon. We have been receiving daily lab reports from the City to monitor water quality. The City tests at 21 beaches from Malibu to Cabrillo and generally Santa Monica Canyon has the highest bacteria count.

Specifically, the City monitors coliform, *E. coli* and enterococcus for adherence to state water quality standards. These are "indicator" bacteria and may come from human or animal sources. Bacteria from birds, for example, are believed to be less harmful than from humans or dogs. The testing unfortunately does not differentiate. A study by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission concluded that persons exposed to our local ocean do get sick. The City must clean up the beach by next July or face significant daily fines. About $1 Million has been spent on the channel diversion structure next to the Golden Bull. "Dry weather" diversion of the channel flow to the sewer system is supposed to begin April 15. As of last week, the flow was exceeding project capacity. The City is planning another round of upgrades of the so-called "low flow" projects.

Sources of Contamination. To get a handle on where the bacteria come from, SMCCA asked the City to perform "hot spot" testing at various locations within the 10,000 acre Santa Monica Canyon drainage area. The tests were performed last Thursday and we observed. About a dozen locations from North of Sunset Blvd. to Short Street were sampled. We hope to have the report in a few days and will post it on our web site. www.smcca.org.

We all can help. Here are a few things to consider:

- Runoff from fertilized lawns enters storm drains and flows to the ocean
- Dog poop may be washed into the street to the ocean.
- Leaves, yard waste and other debris blown or raked into the gutter may clog the pumps of the diversion structure.
- If you employ a mobile pet groomer, consider where the runoff goes.
- Is your septic system in good working order? Have you considered connecting to the sewer system?

Prop K Project update. The City has finished only two of 15 project elements: increasing handicap accessibility to the picnic area and to the interior bathrooms. Without getting into the issue of whether work to date is compatible with the historic nature of the clubhouse, the project is way over budget. The City has shown a lack of urgency in completing this project. We have contacted Councilman Rosendahl's office and corresponded with the City steering committee in an attempt to get the project back on track with necessary funding.