

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0033
(916) 319-2033
FAX (916) 319-2133

Assembly
California Legislature



SAM BLAKESLEE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
1104 PALM STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3381
FAX (805) 549-3400

April 30, 2009

Mr. Bill Bookout
470 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

Dear Mr. Bookout:

I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your letter expressing your concern with the California Department of Transportation and their maintenance of the State Highway in Oceano.

I have already contacted the appropriate officials at the department on your behalf and have asked them to respond directly to you. Please see the enclosed copy of the letter that I sent asking for clarification on your situation.

Thank you very much for taking the time to contact me. Please do not hesitate to contact the District Office at (805) 549-3381 with any future concerns.

It is a pleasure to represent you in the State Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SAM".

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee

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May 4, 2009

Mr. Bill Bookout
470 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

Dear Mr. Bookout:

I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your letter and additional materials expressing your concern with the California Department of Transportation and their maintenance of the State Highway in Oceano.

I have forwarded all of your correspondence on to the appropriate official looking into your inquiry and have asked them to respond directly to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact the District Office at (805) 549-3381 with any future concerns.

It is a pleasure to represent you in the State Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SAM". The signature is stylized, with the letters "S", "A", and "M" connected and written in a cursive-like font.

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee

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May 8, 2009

Department of Transportation
Attn: Richard Harmon
Fax: (916) 654-4358

Dear Richard Harmon:

Enclosed please find a copy of correspondence which I received regarding my constituent's concerns with the maintenance of the State Highway in Oceano.

You will find the letter self-explanatory. Please contact my District Office at (805)-549-3381 if you have any questions. Please respond directly to my constituent with a letter (and carbon copy my office). Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Blakeslee", written over a horizontal line.

Sam Blakeslee
Assembly Member, 33rd District



California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

May 12, 2009

Mr. Bill Bookout
470 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

Dear Mr. Bookout:

I am in receipt of your May 6, 2009, e-mail regarding the problems you have encountered with your property.

As a state legislator, I cannot advise you in your case due to its legal content, but I know how important your future is to you and how difficult this situation must be for you.

I hope that you continue to seek legal counsel and that this very difficult situation will be resolved soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abel Maldonado".

ABEL MALDONADO
Senator, 15th Senate District

AM:dd



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 3, 2008

Marion Soltz
Post Office Box 563
Oceano, California 93475

Dear Marion Soltz,

Thank you for writing Governor Schwarzenegger to express your concerns about Mr. Bill Bookout and the Oceano Nursery. The Governor appreciates hearing from his fellow Californians on issues that matter to them.

It is our office's policy not to comment on pending litigation. However, we do encourage you to continue to work with Caltrans to try and reach a resolution to this matter.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meghan Kane".

Meghan Kane
Office of Constituent Affairs

P.O. Box 563
Oceano, California 93475-0563
(805) 481-9774
May 20, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

COPY

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This letter is regarding an appalling situation here in the little town of Oceano on California's Central Coast. Our town is not grand, funky would be more descriptive, but it is a fine place to call home. We have few businesses in our town, but we used to have one particularly unusual and thriving business, a place that people from all over the county of San Luis Obispo and even further afield, loved to visit. It was called Oceano Nursery, owned by a gentleman named Bill Bookout. Used to have is the operative phrase; Mr. Bookout has had to close this business because of "someone's" failure to assume responsibility, and that "someone" could very well be the State of California.

I moved here in 2000 and shortly thereafter became acquainted with Mr. Bookout at his nursery. He is a very pleasant, kind, and honest man; he is a man who always tries hard to do the right thing. Approximately 4-5 years ago, whenever it rained, his Oceano Nursery property, at the corner of 13th Street and Highway 1, would become heavily flooded, damaging his outbuildings, plant stock and the stock in his gift store. When it first happened, his insurance company compensated him for his loss. Because it continued to happen year in and year out, the insurance company finally said no more. Mr. Bookout during that

time appealed for help from various entities. He appealed to CalTrans for help because not only did his property flood, but Highway 1 right out in front of him flooded, which not only backed the water up onto his property, but stranded any car that tried to pass through (and continues to do so every time it rains). He also appealed to the Oceano Community Services District for help. He appealed to Union Pacific for help. Not only did each of these entities deny responsibility, but they actually pointed their fingers at each other as the responsible party, essentially giving Mr. Bookout the proverbial runaround. During all this time, Mr. Bookout kept struggling to keep his business going, until finally he had to close his doors. As you may be able to imagine, this was a great loss to our community.

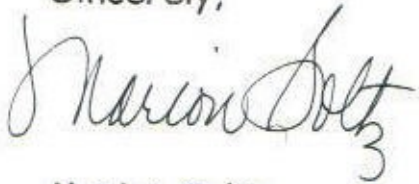
As a last resort, Mr. Bookout has brought his problem to the courts or has at least tried to do so. He has had several court dates and been prepared to go to trial, but the State of California (CalTrans), along with OCSD and Union Pacific, have delayed and delayed his trial. As Mr. Bookout is struggling financially to keep his remaining business intact and also keep his lawsuit active so that he may actually have his day in court, it appears as though CalTrans, et al are employing delaying tactics to put Mr. Bookout in a difficult position, perhaps in the hopes of derailing his lawsuit.

Governor Schwarzenegger, you are the go-to person for this great state. I happen to think you are a fair and honest man. CalTrans, even here in their little fiefdom on the Central Coast, must still answer to you. Please take a moment and see what you can do to help get this matter solved. At the very least, help give Mr. Bookout his day in court.

"Someone," somehow, changed the lie of the land around 13th

Street and Highway 1, Oceano, CA which causes it now to flood severely every time it rains. It is clear that Mr. Bookout has done nothing of the sort. What is not clear is who that "someone" is, i.e. with whom does the responsibility lie? Mr. Bookout has tried everything in his power to get his situation resolved; all he wants is for the flooding problem to be fixed. As it turns out, the only way he can get anyone to pay attention to him is to take them to court; that is, of course, if they ever allow him to actually bring his case before the court. Any help you may be able to offer would most certainly be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Soltz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marion Soltz