

February 2, 2009

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Monterey Bay Area Council we would like to respond to the recent Hearst Newspapers story (which ran in the San Francisco Chronicle) article regarding the Boy Scouts of America and our council. Specifically, we feel compelled to respond to the inaccurate inferences of improprieties related to supporters of our council, government officials and agency employees.

In 2002 our council was challenged with the task of continuing to operate a half-century old seasonal dam at Camp Pico Blanco which fell out of compliance with updated and more stringent environmental regulations. Instead of closing down its waterfront program - arguably the camp's best feature - the council was determined to find a way to comply with the new and more stringent regulations.

In dealing with several environmental agencies the Scouts did what any organization might do – they turned to their elected representatives for direction. Two highly respected legislators, Democrat Congressman Sam Farr and former Republican State Senator Bruce McPherson helped arrange informational meetings between experts hired by the Scouts and appropriate government officials.

These meetings assured the council operated its facility within all state and federal regulations and thanks, in part, to Mr. Farr's and Mr. McPherson's assistance the Scouts were able to preserve their waterfront program by making significant improvements to their existing dam that now serves as a model for good stream management in the western United States.

Everything our council does is guided by the pillars of Scouting, its Oath and Law. The Scout Law, in part, says a Scout is “Trustworthy,” meaning a Scout tells the truth and that honesty is part of his code of conduct. Any allegations or insinuations that elected officials, or the Scouts, acted improperly are unfounded and inaccurate.

*Pete Scudder
Council President*

*Al Friedrich
Council Commissioner*

*Albert Gallegos
Scout Executive*