From: [redacted]
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To whom it may concern,
Ref MUL260006

We wish to lodge an objection to Uisce Eireann's pending application for a licence to do exploratory works at Cregg Beach, located in Liscannor bay, Lahinch, Co.Clare. These exploratory works are in relation to a future planning application for a new waste water secondary treatment plant for Lahinch and Ennistymon. The licence sought is to survey, over a 24 month period, the suitability of Cregg Beach using underwater mapping, sonar and sediment sampling in the area. This underwater exploratory works involves creating 20 boreholes, 30 metres into the seabed and trial pits dug 4 metres deep involving excavation diggers, trucks and boats. A proposed sound survey of the seabed will involve the use of a boomer towed by a boat.
We feel the exploratory works will have a detrimental effect on the local and wider community who use the beach regularly and a catastrophic effect on marine wildlife and the habitat of many mammals. There is no information available from Uisce Eireann whether there will be public access to this beach during this proposed two year survey.
Cregg beach is a well known and frequently used local beach popular with swimmers, surfers and fishermen. Our own families have used this beach for generations, for bathing, seaweed foraging and fishing.
Today the beach is frequently used for walking, swimming, school tours, surfing and fishing. The bay's marine life includes Baskin Sharks, Otters, Dolphins and Grey Seals. Fishermen catch seabass, brown trout and perch.
Clare Co.Council has recently completed a Bathing Waters Survey to consider Cregg beach as an official bathing area, with 194 positive submissions. The recent TG4 documentary Cill Stuifín illustrated the spectacular beauty of this bay and it's importance to the local marine ecosystem. Any interference with it would be a travesty.
We do not object to an upgrade of our current waste water treatment plant, in fact we support it completely, as our current system is not fit for purpose. The fact that Lahinch lost it's Blue Flag this year speaks for itself. Lahinch is a thriving village, hugely dependant on clean waters to support the large volumes of tourists who holiday here for drinking, bathing, surfing, golfing and exploring the Wild Atlantic Way and the Burren Geopark. A functioning waste water treatment plant is essential for the future of the bay and the economy of the area.
What we seek is careful consideration by you at MARA, Uisce Eireann and Clare Co.Council where such a plant should be located. Why pump waste from the current treatment plant 4km, then uphill to

Calluragh, and out to sea at Cregg beach, when due consideration should be given to upgrading the system in Ennistymon, looking to the increasing population in the area in the coming years.
Ideally, an environmentally acceptable treatment system should be installed, which is cost effective, has minimal negative impact on the environment and will be functional for future generations.
We hope you will give consideration to our grave concerns.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Lahinch.