

January 26,2015

Jean-Pierre Wolff
Board Chair
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Re: Agenda Item 16 - January 2015: Reporting Groundwater Testing Results to the Public

Dear Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

This letter supports the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's staff determination that the Regional Board should not permit the use of CCGC contour maps to display nitrate concentrations in groundwater in lieu of providing actual water quality data.

Known Water Quality Information Should be Displayed Immediately in an Accurate, Reliable, Accessible and Easy-to-Understand Format

As stated in the report, the "use of contour maps that are highly interpretive and in many areas do not provide the public with a precise or accurate representation of groundwater quality" is antithetical to protecting public health and accurately and consistently documenting the extent of contamination. The fact that data that has been in the Water Board's possession for months, as early as February 2014, is still not being displayed on Geotracker GAMA equally contributes to the continued unnecessary endangerment of human health. The Water Board should not and need not enter into a prolonged negotiation over the format of displaying water quality data to the public. The public is legally entitled to such information. Every effort should be made to facilitate immediate access to accurate and reliable water quality data.

If the Regional Water Board is truly committed to addressing the "potential severity and urgency of the health issues associated with drinking water with unsafe nitrate concentrations," if that is truly a "high priority," then the public access to information should not be on the table for compromise or negotiation. The Board should provide Executive Office Harris and staff with directions to facilitate immediate public access to water quality data on Geotracker GAMA.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Member of the Public