



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Agricultural Order Renewal Public Comments and Alternatives to 02/01/2010 Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations

Group 11: Comment Letters

The Regional Water Board received over 1000 form letters which were of an identical format, but signed by unique individuals. A cover letter explaining the contents included of each of these 6 form letters precedes copies of the actual letter.

| Comment ID | Name | Number of Letters | Date Received By |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| P15 | Form Letter 1 | 62 | 4/1/2010 |
| P16 | Form Letter 2 | 471 (183 in English, 288 in Spanish) | 4/1/2010 |
| P17 | Form Letter 3 | 397 | 4/1/2010 |
| P18 | Form Letter 4 | 6 | 4/1/2010 |
| P19 | Form Letter 5 | 32 | 4/1/2010 |
| P20 | Form Letter 6 | 30 | 4/1/2010 |



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April 1, 2010

In response to the February 1, 2010 public release of the Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order, the Central Coast Water Board received the attached standardized letter from numerous commenters. The standardized letter was signed by 62 individuals and sent by fax, mail, and e-mail on or before April 1, 2010; that letter is included one time. In addition, 3 of the 62 letters also included specific, unique comments - those letters are also attached. Due to the volume of standardized letters, individual letters are otherwise not included. Copies are available upon request. For more information, please contact Howard Kolb at (805) 549-3332 or hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.

Ms. Angela Schroeter, Senior Engineering Geologist
Ms. Lisa McCann, Environmental Program Manager
Region 3 Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

2010

Dear Board Members:

I am concerned with the February 1, 2010 Draft Agricultural Order. The regional staff has abandoned all cooperative efforts with agriculture. The success of the 2004 Irrigated Agriculture Conditional Waiver was built on the cooperation between agriculture and the Regional Board and staff. Additionally, the draft Order gives scant acknowledgement that there have been improvements in the water quality in the region.

The Order is requiring water quality standards that can not be feasibly met and unrealistically short time for attainment. Below are additional problems with this Order.

- ❖ The Order claims to be focusing on priority regions “Salinas, Pajaro and Santa Maria watersheds”, yet places heavy handed regulation on the entire region. This will result in significant impacts on farmers, especially small farmers.
- ❖ Key Element #4 has monitoring and reporting requirements in the Order that allow “the public to determine that the program is achieving its stated purpose and/or whether additional or different MPs or other actions are required”.
- ❖ The major expansion of the Farm Plan includes an expensive certification of the nutrient section by a “Certified Crop Advisor”; a fixed “schedule, duration and frequency of irrigation events”, even though changes in weather and moisture make this impossible; monitoring requirements of pollutants (Mercury) that are not used by agriculture; as well as an aquatic habitat requirement which may well be beyond the Regional Board’s authority.
- ❖ The establishment of 50 to 100 foot riparian buffers can destroy the productiveness, especially of small farms with low acreage and narrow fields.
- ❖ Requiring that nurseries that grow plants in pots and/or containers outside must “prevent rainwater from coming into contact with (the) containerized plants” is unreasonable.
- ❖ The complete disregard for public health with the prohibition of, “clearing of beneficial vegetation for food safety reasons” places farmers in serious jeopardy.

Those of us in farming recognize that there have been water quality issues and have worked together toward long-term water quality improvements. We are moving in the right direction with water quality but see the new command and control regulatory attitude of the proposed Order as destroying that progress. We ask you to work with the agricultural community and agriculture’s alternative plan, which builds on the existing waiver, for a reasonable and achievable program.

Please note that the Ag waiver program works. If staff would take the time to look at the plans growers have completed they would see that we are very stringent irrigating to the point of zero run-off. Water is too expensive to waste. Better use of time would be to go after growers that have not signed into the program.

Respectfully Yours,



Bradley R. Miles, grower and Commissioner of CAC

MAR 30 2010

Ms. Angela Schroeter, Senior Engineering Geologist
Ms. Lisa McCann, Environmental Program Manager
Region 3 Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Sincerely,

Wayne L Gerhardt

a farm plan has to be flexable due to the weather conditions, wind, temp and foggy or cloudy conditions.

Ms. Angela Schroeter, Senior Engineering Geologist
Ms. Lisa McCann, Environmental Program Manager
Region 3 Water Quality Control Board
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

MAR 30 2010

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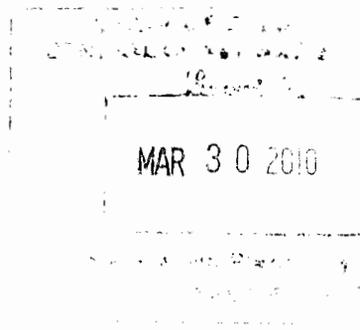
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Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerhardt
weather conditions can effect a farm plan

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Ms. Lisa McCann, Environmental Program Manager
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895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
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Sincerely,

Susan Spitzley - Susan Spitzley

6450 Santa Rosa Creek Rd.
Cambria, CA

Form Letter 1
Group 41-F15
May 12, 2010 Workshop
Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order

Handwritten signature



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
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30 March, 2010

To:

Angela Schroeter/ Howard Kolb

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

E-mail: aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov, hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: SUPPORT for the Central Coast Regional Board's Preliminary Draft Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order

Dear Regional Water Board Members,

We applaud the Regional Water Board's efforts to regulate contaminated agricultural discharges. We are residents of the Central Coast region and we care about this issue as it affects our drinking water.

Most of us in the Central Coast drink groundwater, but it is contaminated with nitrates because of agriculture, which can cause severe health impacts, including "blue baby syndrome". We do not want to drink toxic water.

We strongly urge the Board to require Dischargers to sample private domestic wells and then to provide alternative water supplies or replacement water service to affected public water suppliers or private well owners. We want agriculture to pay if they continue to contaminate our water.

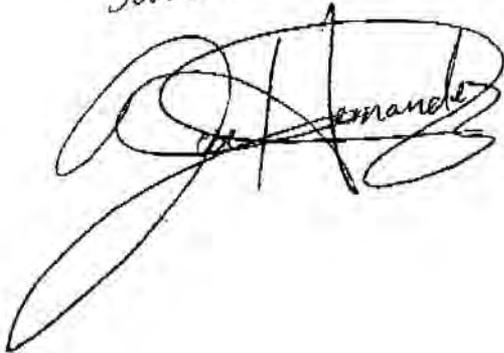
We want you to regulate agriculture so that it does not contaminate our drinking water.

Sincerely,

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature

Jose Hernandez

50 Paloma Ave
Salinas CA 93905

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Hernandez", written over a large, loopy scribble.

30 March, 2010

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We want you to regulate agriculture so that it does not contaminate our drinking water.

Sincerely, *EdUARdo Macias*

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature

255 est Bolivar st. Salinas 93906

When the water is contaminated - we can suffer many illnesses, and its not fair for our community to be drinking toxic water. Please, help us have safe drinking water and control agricultural discharges for the better for all. Eddie
age: 13

30 March, 2010

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We want you to regulate agriculture so that it does not contaminate our drinking water.

Sincerely,
Lowell Macias ^{CTF} Correctional officer *Lowell Macias*
Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature Salinas, 93906

I worry for the safety of our water. please have more strick regulations on agricultural discharges. I want my kids and family be able to drink water with out fear of get sick. Please listen our petition.

Lowell Macias
40 yrs.

30 March, 2010

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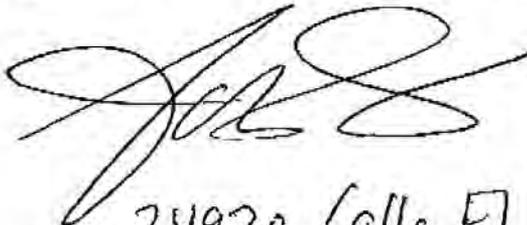
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Sincerely,

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature

Sonia M. Lopez



24920 Calle El Rosano

Salinas CA. 93908

Please listen to our concerns for better water quality, for our children, parents, grandparents, ourselves, for our community for

Form Letter 2
Group 11 - P16
May 12, 2010 Workshop
Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order

30 March, 2010

To:

Angela Schroeter/ Howard Kolb

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

E-mail: aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov, hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov

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Sincerely,

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature

Lois M. Rocha

Receptionist at MAOF

501-D Chardonnay Dr.

(831) 794-2945

We should ALL have safe drinking water.

30 March, 2010

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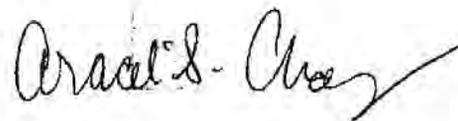
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Sincerely,

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature

Araceli S. Chavez



Salinas CA. 93906

We deserve clean water in
Salinas!

30 March, 2010

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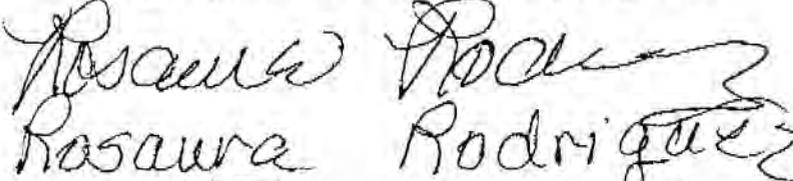
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Sincerely,

Name, City, Organization/ Business (if any), Signature


Rosaura Rodriguez
1557 Trinity Wy.

As a teacher it is important
that our children get clean-
water.



Linda S. Adams.
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Environmental Protection*

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30 de Marzo, 2010

Para:

Angela Schroeter/ Howard Koib

Junta Regional para el Control de la Calidad del Agua en la Costa Central

Correo Electrónico: aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov, hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov

Objetivo: APOYO para el Borrador de Recomendaciones Preliminares de la Junta Regional de la Costa Central para un Ordenamiento Agrícola Actualizado

Estimados Miembros de la Junta Regional del Agua,

Aplaudimos los esfuerzos realizados por la Junta Regional del Agua para regular las descargas agrícolas contaminadas. Somos los residentes de la region central y nos importa este tema por que afecta nuestra agua potable.

La mayoría de nosotros en la costa central tomamos agua subterránea pero esta contaminada con nitratos por la agricultura y causa impactos severos en la salud, incluyendo el "síndrome del bebé azul." Estamos forzados a tomar agua toxica.

Urgimos perentoriamente a la Junta para que exija a quienes realizan descargas, el muestreo de pozos privados domésticos y luego proveer un suministro alternativo de agua, o bien el reemplazo del servicio de agua. Queremos que la agricultura pare si van a seguir contaminando nuestra agua.

Queremos que ustedes regulen mejor a la agricultura para que paren de contaminar nuestra agua potable.

Sinceramente,

| Nombre | Cuidad | Organizacion; negocio (si hay alguno) | Firma |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|

Raúl Valeriano Delgado San Jose
 2405 Barlow Ave 95112

Raúl Valeriano Delgado

30 de Marzo, 2010

Para:

Angela Schroeter/ Howard Kolb

Junta Regional para el Control de la Calidad del Agua en la Costa Central

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Sinceramente,

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| Nombre Andrea | Salinas Cuidad | Organizacion/ negocio (si hay alguno) 255 Est Bolivar St #107 Salinas 93906 | Andrea Yllana Firma |
|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|

Macias

Querida Mesa Regional del Agua. Queremos que nos escuchen nuestras peticiones de cuidar que el agua que tomamos no esta contaminada. El agua contaminada puede causar enfermedades y hasta la muerte y no es justo que las personas estemos en ese riesgo solo porque las autoridades no hacen nada. ~~ere~~ (Queremos vivir sanos)

Andrea Yllana
Firma

30 de Marzo, 2010

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|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|

Maria Barajas  740 Josephine
 Salinas, CA 93905
 Creo que merecemos
 mejor agua.

Form Letter 2
 Group 11 - P16
 May 12, 2010 Workshop
 Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order

30 de Marzo, 2010

Para:

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Junta Regional para el Control de la Calidad del Agua en la Costa Central

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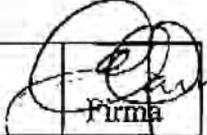
Aplaudimos los esfuerzos realizados por la Junta Regional del Agua para regular las descargas agrícolas contaminadas. Somos los residentes de la region central y nos importa este tema por que afecta nuestra agua potable.

La mayoría de nosotros en la costa central tomamos agua subterránea pero esta contaminada con nitratos por la agricultura y causa impactos severos en la salud, incluyendo el "síndrome del bebé azul." Estamos forzados a tomar agua toxica.

Urgimos perentoriamente a la Junta para que exija a quienes realizan descargas, el muestreo de pozos privados domésticos y luego proveer un suministro alternativo de agua, o bien el reemplazo del servicio de agua. Queremos que la agricultura pague si van a seguir contaminando nuestra agua.

Queremos que ustedes regulen mejor a la agricultura para que paren de contaminar nuestra agua potable.

Sinceramente,

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Nombre <i>Angelica</i> | <i>Sokdad</i> Cuidad | Organizacion/ negocio (si hay alguno) <i>501 Andaluucia DR #32.</i> |  Firma |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|

Clean Water



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 1, 2010

In response to the February 1, 2010 public release of the Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order, the Central Coast Water Board received the attached standardized letter from numerous commenters. The standardized letter was signed by 397 individuals and sent by e-mail on or before April 1, 2010; that letter is included one time.

Due to the volume of standardized letters, individual letters are otherwise not included. Copies are available upon request. For more information, please contact Howard Kolb at (805) 549-3332 or hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.

From: <jeannelastella@yahoo.com>
To: "centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov" <centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 4/1/2010 2:38 PM
Subject: Stop farms from polluting our drinking water, ocean, and wildlife

April 1, 2010
CCRWQCB Members and Staff

Dear CCRWQCB Members and Staff,

Dear Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Members and Staff:

Agriculture should not be treated any different from industry or private citizens. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers must not be allowed to pollute surface or groundwater. Water belongs to all of us – people and sea otters alike. Water is only 'borrowed' by the farmers and must be returned clean and chemical free.

I support staff's strong recommendation to protect our water quality and protect our groundwater, rivers and ocean from polluted runoff.

Every grower should be required to monitor and know what is in the runoff leaving their farm. Growers should not be allowed to discharge water off their property or into the groundwater that is toxic to aquatic life. Commercial agriculture has become a science and farmers should use only the amount of fertilizer needed to grow their crop; excess fertilizer cannot be allowed to pollute our groundwater or rivers where treatment costs are unjustly passed on to municipal drinking water users.

The Board has the legal responsibility to protect the integrity of our water and rivers. Streamside vegetation is wildlife habitat and actually helps improve water quality; farmers should be required to protect riparian vegetation and should maintain a vegetated buffer between their crops and any waterways.

Protect water quality for all of us.

Sincerely

Jeanne LaStella
528 Beaumont Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28204-2021



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
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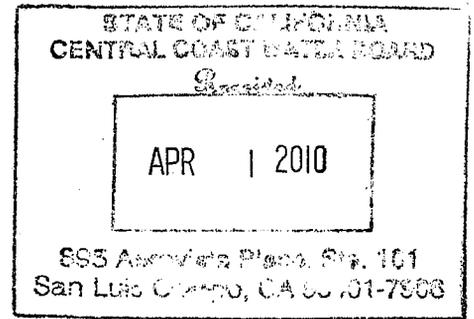
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 1, 2010

In response to the February 1, 2010 public release of the Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order, the Central Coast Water Board received the attached standardized letter from numerous commenters. The standardized letter was signed by 6 individuals and sent by e-mail on or before April 1, 2010. In addition, these letters are all from tenants of Aquistapace Farms. Due to the volume of standardized letters, individual letters are otherwise not included. Copies are available upon request. For more information, please contact Howard Kolb at (805) 549-3332 or hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.

3-27-2010

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young,

I rent 50 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms. I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver. The recommendations related to record keeping, buffers for pesticide applications, leaching of salts, elimination of tile and tail water, excessive monitoring, riparian vegetation, and groundwater. These recommendations, as they are currently written, will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations, if adopted, may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Palotay".

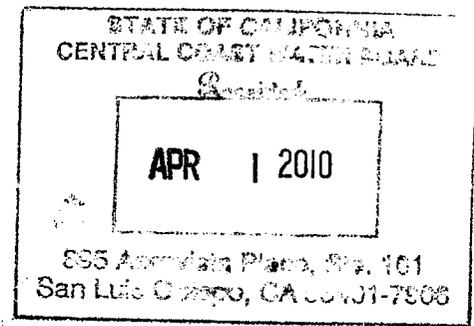
Mary Ann Palotay
P.O. Box 963
Turner, Oregon 97392-0963

cc:

Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgkin
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs, Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter, Senior EG

3-27-10

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place , Suite 101
San Luis Obispo , Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young ,

I rent 45 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms . I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver . The recommendations related to record keeping , buffers for pesticide applications , leaching of salts , elimination of tile and tail water , excessive monitoring , riparian vegetation , and groundwater will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations if adopted may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association .

Thank you ,

Sincerely ,

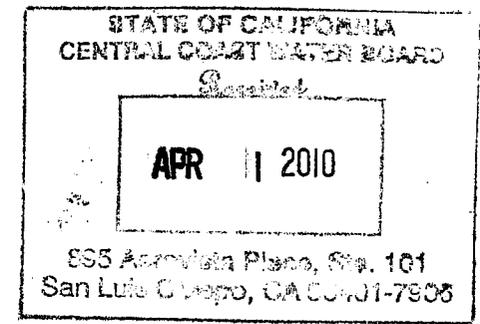
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pipoli".

Mary Pipoli
385 N Blosser Road
Santa Maria , Ca. 93458

cc: Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgins
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs , Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter , Senior EG

3-27-10

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place , Suite 101
San Luis Obispo , Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young ,

I rent 5 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms . I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver . The recommendations related to record keeping , buffers for pesticide applications , leaching of salts , elimination of tile and tail water , excessive monitoring , riparian vegetation , and groundwater will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations if adopted may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association .

Thank you ,

Sincerely ,

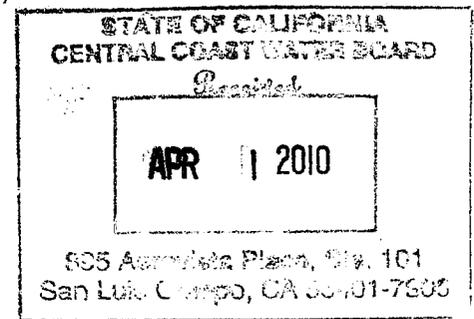
Monte Epps

Monte Epps
2510 Telephone Road
Santa Maria , Ca. 93454

cc: Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgin
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs , Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter , Senior EG

3-27-10

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young,

I rent 6 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms. I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver. The recommendations related to record keeping, buffers for pesticide applications, leaching of salts, elimination of tile and tail water, excessive monitoring, riparian vegetation, and groundwater will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations if adopted may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

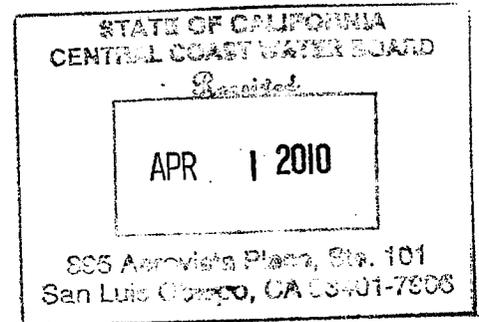
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Kiniry".

Rebecca Kiniry
2640 Telephone Road
Santa Maria, Ca. 93454

cc: Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgin
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs, Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter, Senior EG

3-27-10

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place , Suite 101
San Luis Obispo , Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young ,

I rent 70 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms . I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver . The recommendations related to record keeping , buffers for pesticide applications , leaching of salts , elimination of tile and tail water , excessive monitoring , riparian vegetation , and groundwater will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations if adopted may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association .

Thank you ,

Sincerely ,

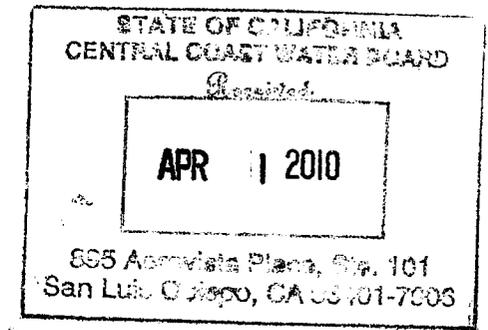


Richard Clark
521 Country Wood Court
Lompoc , Ca. 93436

cc: Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgin
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs , Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter , Senior EG

3-27-10

Chairman Jeffrey Young
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board
895 Aerovista Place , Suite 101
San Luis Obispo , Ca. 93401-7906



Dear Chairman Young ,

I rent 106 acres of Santa Maria farmland to Acquistapace Farms . I read a summary of your staff's recommendations for the renewal of the Agricultural Waiver . The recommendations related to record keeping , buffers for pesticide applications , leaching of salts , elimination of tile and tail water , excessive monitoring , riparian vegetation , and groundwater will cause undue physical and financial hardships to farmers. The recommendations if adopted may cause many to go out of business.

I support the proposals made by the California Farm Bureau and the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Grower Shipper Association .

Thank you ,

Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roland Lanini".

Roland Lanini
310 N Russell Unit E
Santa Maria , Ca. 93458

cc: Vice Chairman Russell Jeffries
John Hayashi
David Hodgins
Monica Hunter
Tom O'Malley
Gary Shallcross
Roger Briggs , Executive Officer
Angela Schroeter , Senior EG



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 1, 2010

In response to the February 1, 2010 public release of the Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order, the Central Coast Water Board received the attached standardized letter from numerous commenters. The standardized letter was signed by 32 individuals and sent by fax, mail, and e-mail on or before April 1, 2010; that letter is included one time. In addition, 7 of the 32 letters also included specific, unique comments - those letters are also attached. Due to the volume of standardized letters, individual letters are otherwise not included. Copies are available upon request. For more information, please contact Howard Kolb at (805) 549-3332 or hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.

From: <janicevans@verizon.net>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 4:52 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Janice Evans
Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Flower & Nursery Growers Assoc.
1305 Flora Vista Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109-1119

March 25, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Janice Evans
Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Flower & Nursery Growers Assoc.

From: <aeengland@hotmail.com>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 10:47 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

April England-Mackie
Food Safety, Water Quality and Organic Programs Manager
Martin Jefferson and Sons Farms
790 Quail Hollow Dr.
Hollister, CA 95023-8909

March 26, 2010

Howard Kolb
Agricultural Order Project Lead Staff
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Mr Kolb:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

I was a participant on the recent ag panel and it quickly became apparent that the Regional Board Staff was not willing to work with the ag community on creating a viable new ag discharge waiver.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I KNOW that this will have negative impacts on the other farmers and ranchers as well as myself who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

My operation already implements numerous best management practices to help manage water quality on our operation. However, implementation of these practices does not come without a cost. To try to alleviate these costs we have worked closely with agencies like the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Resource Conservation District on cost sharing practices. The new waiver requirements would make any cost sharing methods minimal.

Also, the Staff's version of the ag waiver requires confidential on farm data be submitted to the RWQCB and once this happens, the on farm data would become public; disclosing crucial ag practices that each grower prides themselves on in order to maintain their competitive edge.

So many portions of the Staff's version of the document are so ridiculous that it would literally run agriculture out of the state making land fallow, causing even greater pollution to waterways due to fallow ground and having sediment discharges.

This order is DEADLY to the Agriculture industry.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

April England-Mackie
Food Safety, Water Quality and Organic Programs Manager
Martin Jefferson and Sons Farms

From: <samfrye@email.com>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/29/2010 3:33 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Sam Frye
Manager
Rancho San Carlos
2500 E Valley Rd
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-1661

March 29, 2010

Howard Kolb
Agricultural Order Project Lead Staff
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Mr Kolb:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

I am the manager of Rancho San Carlos, which has been located in Santa Barbara County since the 1930's. I am a grower of lemons, avocados, oranges and limes. I provide jobs to six employees, and cultivate 100 acres located in Region 3. The draft Ag Order will negatively impact my ability to continue producing my citrus and avocados.

My operation already implements numerous best management practices to reduce runoff by maintaining vegetative strips between the rows of our trees. We apply all of our pesticides in compliance with the label requirements and the requirements set by our Ag Commissioner. We use several techniques to control erosion in the places of our ranch that require it.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Sam Frye

805 969-0346
Manager
Rancho San Carlos

From: <louiemtb@aol.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 5:18 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Louie Figone
owner/operator
Wholesale cut flower grower
428 Fifth Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-5125

March 25, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast. Some of the requirements that you are asking do not make any sense, a schedule of irrigation, farmers need to irigate when the crop needs it. Monitoring of pullutants not used by agriculture? Work with the Farm Bureau's and Resorce Consveration Districts to come up with a plan that is workable.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Louie Figone
650-726-2421
owner/operator
Wholesale cut flower grower

From: <alicehillgrove@acelere.net>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/26/2010 10:07 AM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Dan Shaffer
Owner/Operator
Alice Hill Grove (Olives for Olive Oil)
PO Box 888
Pescadero, CA 94060-0888

March 26, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Of particular concern to my operation is the inability to separate rain water from any other possible runoff. We use no chemicals. Do not have runoff from irrigation as we use a very precise drip system on our olive trees.

My operation already implements numerous best management practices to conserve water, protect the environment. We are engaged in several water and wildlife conservation practices in cooperation with the USAD including the planting of hundreds of native plants on multiple hedgerows.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Dan M. Shaffer
6508672660
Owner/Operator
Alice Hill Grove (Olives for Olive Oil)

From: <sdrummy@gmail.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/26/2010 9:32 AM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Stephen Drummy
375 Calle Lippizana
Goleta, CA 93117-9727

March 26, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Of particular concern to my operation is that being a small acreage farmer (10 acres) I will be dragged into requirements suited for large farms and ranches which will be costly to me and provide no practical benefits. You will be effectively burdening small farms and ranches with another layer of obligations which seem intended only to justify the existence of more bureaucratic nonsense.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Stephen Drummy

From: <ken@ellwoodranch.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/29/2010 10:38 AM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Kenneth Doty
President
Ellwood Ranch Inc.
1300 Ellwood Ranch Road
Goleta, CA 93117-1059

March 29, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Of particular concern to my operation is the continuing regulatory intrusion into the ordinary, customary, and up to date agricultural methods I use.

My operation already implements numerous best management practices to minimize off site impacts of my operations.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Doty
805 7053278
President
Ellwood Ranch Inc.

From: <jwm28@cornell.edu>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 4:58 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

John Monroe
CEO
Done-Again Farms, Inc.
1570 Madrono Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1015

March 25, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Of particular concern to my operation is the requirement for a fixed schedule of irrigation events. This will result in wasted water, and ignores the reality of nature ... that trees (we own an almond orchard) transpire at rates determined by temperature. And temperature, a part of the weather, cannot be accurately forecast!

My operation already implements numerous best management practices to minimize water runoff from irrigation. We are deeply concerned about the quality of our growing environment. We do not need external, arbitrary help to drive us to do what's right.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

John Monroe
(650) 327-3214
CEO

From: <mail@sandyjekel.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/26/2010 3:37 PM
Subject: CCRWQCB Request for Public Comments on Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order dated February 1, 2010

Sandy Jekel
6880 O'Donovan Rd.
Creston, CA 93432-9743

March 26, 2010

Angela Schroeter
Agricultural Regulatory Program Manager
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Ste 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Ms Schroeter:

I have been following the progress of this Board's renewal of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands ("Ag Order") and am concerned with Staff's draft Ag Order.

The draft Ag Order contains many undefined and potentially highly impractical requirements for all agricultural operations. I am afraid this will have a negative impact on the farmers and ranchers who produce the food, fiber and flowers that bring jobs and a strong economy to the Central Coast.

Of particular concern to my operation is more regulations for issues which are not a problem. We are becoming so overburdened and for what? So you can have more control. You are driving business and jobs out of California, get off our backs and let us provide jobs and food. We do take care of our land. These are ridiculous things being implemented, we are NOT the problem.

Water is a precious and costly resource, thus I urge the Board to listen to the growers' feedback and suggestions. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives, and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Sandy Jekel
8054404378



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 1, 2010

In response to the February 1, 2010 public release of the Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order, the Central Coast Water Board received the attached standardized letter from numerous commenters. The standardized letter was signed by 32 individuals and sent by e-mail on or before April 1, 2010; that letter is included one time. In addition, 14 of the 32 letters also included specific, unique comments - these are also attached. Due to the volume of standardized letters, individual letters are otherwise not included. Copies are available upon request. For more information, please contact Howard Kolb at (805) 549-3332 or hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.

From: "Andy Caldwell" <andy@colabsbc.org>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/14/2010 8:40 PM
Subject: COLAB comments on Ag Discharge Order

COLAB

March 14, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order
Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges
From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

Delivered Via Email

Dear Board Members,

The desire to have clean water, viable habitats, and a healthy environment is a goal we all share.

The question is, how do we realize our goal and maintain our economy and the rights of the citizenry at the same time, while respecting the bounds of reason, science and best available control technology?

How do we garner cooperation from the property owners and businesses that must be our partners in the process?

What is the best way to achieve our goals while respecting the demands of other regulatory agencies and market demands placed upon the same affected community?

Well, I can say one thing for sure. Your staff must not have had ANY of these questions in mind when they promulgated the Waste Discharge Preliminary Draft Order.

On behalf of The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business, I am writing to you to request that you at once terminate and rescind the proposed regulations affecting agricultural operations throughout the region and start over!

All of the constituent pollutants in the basin are NOT attributable to agriculture. Your staff wants agriculture to clean up their contribution to water quality degradation without ever having bothered to delineate what pollutants are actually attributable to agriculture!

The draft order issued by your staff is replete with gross exaggeration, hyperbole and rhetoric that should serve as an indicator to your board that something is amiss. The basic jest of the order tries to make the case that millions of people are at risk from the pollutants attributable to agriculture on the Central Coast. However, the bulk of the land in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties is neither cultivated or inhabited! And, the bulk of the population in the northern most region of your district is in urban metropolitan areas that are not affected by agricultural runoff.

Agriculture should NOT be required to test for and clean up chemical traces

in the water that are there through NO fault of their own. This desire to search for pollutants and order abatement violates principles of laws that protect the citizenry from searches and takings that are not justified or even rationale.

What is in the aquifer is a result of the contributions of many sources over a very long period of time. It cannot be cleaned up in a day. And, the burden to clean it up should not fall on the farmers of today.

What should your staff do to proceed in a meaningful and thoughtful way?

Well, the first thing they should do is a historical analysis of the various basins in the region for the last 150 years! Board members, this is YOUR responsibility before you enact regulations. In other words, you should know where the various trace pollutants came from and when, where they are now, and what has happened over time with respect to the same as it affects water quality. There is no way to turn back the clock and this regulatory effort should not be aimed at a futile and expensive attempt to do just do that!

The main point here is that your staff is asking the farmers of the region to monitor for and clean up pollutants that were NEVER used by farmers to begin with and are certainly NOT being used by farmers today.

Furthermore, your staff is asking the farming community to clean waste water to drinking water standards even when reservoirs like Lake Cachuma, whose waters are in part reserved for drinking water, do not meet these same standards. Municipalities do not treat water to drinking water standards UNLESS and UNTIL the water is going to actually be served for human consumption. Your staff has infuriated the public it serves by promulgating this ridiculous standard that would have them clean WASTE water to drinking water standards so that it can flow down a ditch to the ocean. What is the benefit of that?

There is no wildlife or wildlife habitat that needs drinking water standards to be met for the waters to be considered beneficial to wildlife. Moreover, if your staff succeeds in cutting back on the flow of water downstream to habitats by making the farmers retain water on site, then your staff will have created a Class One Impact to the habitat by in effect cutting off its supply of water in this semi-arid climate we live in. For the only water keeping such habitats alive throughout much of the year is this very same water runoff from fields!

Another Class One Impact that will arise from these rules is the conversion of prime farm ground to other uses as most farming operations will not be able to withstand implementing these arbitrary and capricious standards. They will be forced by regulatory fiat and economic necessity to convert their lands to other uses.

In view of the requirements of CEQA, your board should have to make overriding determinations to effect these impacts upon agriculture as agriculture itself is considered a significant resource by the State. Ag is worthy of the same protection as the water flea you are ostensibly trying to protect at the expense of our farms and ranches.

It is absolutely ridiculous for your staff to maintain that this order is going to positively affect spawning habitat and migration for salmonids. The fact is, most of these areas are no longer suitable for habitat and migration due to the presence of dams that restrict migration. Another factor to consider is the natural morphology of the rivers themselves. The rivers are too wide to convey a flow that is deep enough to maintain temperatures suitable for the fish. Additionally, there is not enough water to support the life cycle or breach sandbars at the mouth of the rivers. The most suitable habitat is far upstream and there is no agriculture in those areas that would have any impact on the same.

So, please direct your staff to examine, study and publish an analysis that incorporates such information that will allow your board to make meaningful decisions as you seek to improve the water quality in the region:

What background levels exist in the basins?

What impact from industries, land uses, and natural conditions have existed in the basins over the course of history as it pertains to the local historical industrial revolution? What were the impacts to water quality from the various types of use by business and manufacturing, and the evolution of agriculture in the region?

For instance, what effect did Union Sugar have on the Santa Maria basin during the previous century? They pumped millions of gallons of water a day, in and out of the aquifer, as they WASHED sugar beets (over 200 tons of beets per hour) all day and night for 90 years?

Farmers today should not be required to test for and filter out pollutants

that may have been imported into the region by this factory!

The chemicals the farmers used then and now are legally registered products. It is patently unfair for your staff to ask these good stewards to clean up the water to drinking water standards when the alleged impairments stem from past approved and customary practices of decades and even a century ago.

There was and is today, a lot of mining in the region, what chemicals were released by these operations?

What about the World War II air combat training field in Santa Maria? Do you think they may have had some fuel spills? What about their use of solvents?

What about missile launch impacts at VAFB? What trace chemicals were left behind?

What spills occurred and what was the resultant impact upon the soil and groundwater in the basin from these and so many other historical uses?

What is the history of other manufacturers and business, including dry cleaners and dairies, BEFORE there was any prohibitions against disposal of waste chemical streams into drains?

What is the contribution to water quality degradation from historic dump sites (private and municipal)?

What about the oil industry? What about dry cleaners? Golf courses?

What is the impact of decades of water softener use and detergents and cleansers by urban residents and business?

What is the impact of past and present storm water runoff?

What is the impact of wastewater effluent discharges?

The City of Santa Maria allows septic system pumpers serving SLO residents to dispose of their waste, what is the impact of that practice?

What is the impact of runoff from urban areas? Urban residents use the same chemicals on their lawns and around their houses to control weeds and pests as do farmers! Your staff should quantify how many chemicals are used by urban dwellers each and every year and the impact of the same to our waters. Some of these chemicals are not available for farm use! Where do you think the runoff from these yards and homes go? Are the farmers responsible to clean up these pollutants simply because they are downstream of the source?

What about the runoff from roads and highways? Is your agency holding Cal Trans responsible for the water washing off their roads into the farmer's ditches?

What are the naturally occurring background levels in the water? Is there ANY groundwater in the State of California that meets drinking water standards? Are you going to issue an order to charge the US Forest Service with the responsibility to clean Sierra snow melt to drinking water standards?

These are just a few of the issues that should be considered BEFORE your Board initiates this order.

There has always been a standard of protection for the citizenry of the United States against unlawful and unwarranted searches and seizures of private property, and from the imposition of regulations that can only be described as arbitrary and capricious.

COLAB represents thousands of residents on the Central Coast and we are asking your board to reign in your staff! Your staff is violating these basic tenets of protection and unless you step in and stop them, you will be wreaking extreme havoc on our economy and our community. This will have a most unfortunate impact upon the ability of your board to function in the best interests of the citizenry as it will absolutely obliterate any incentive to voluntarily cooperate with your efforts.

In a nutshell, your staff has created impossible standards, violated the rights of property owners, and virtually destroyed any semblance of trust and respect for your agency. It is most unfortunate that some of your key staff members may need to be terminated to salvage the opportunity to work with the citizens whose cooperation is essential for success.

Please do the right thing and start over. Begin the historical analysis. Order your staff to work cooperatively with the regulated community and the citizenry. Respect the fact that current practices are sound and that food safety issues must be respected in any rule making effort.

Specifically, we request that the Board do the following:

1. Endorse the agricultural alternative proposal.
2. Reinstate Board staff that developed the successful 2004 irrigated agriculture waiver program.
3. Reconvene the Agricultural Advisory Committee in order to fine tune, not add to, the Agriculture Alternative proposal and return to the Board.
4. Specifically direct your Executive Officer to dismantle the agricultural regulatory program and re-assign those responsible for this debacle to other non-agricultural related programs or other regional boards.

These are necessary steps to healing the breach that has been created and restoring confidence and trust for the agency.

Sincerely,

J. Andrew Caldwell

Executive Director

COLAB of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbra Counties

COLAB

P.O. Box 7523

Santa Maria, CA 93456

Phone 805-9219-3148

Email: Andy@colabsbc.org

I think andy has hit it right on the head, I couldn't agree more. Paul

From: "Mary Leadbetter" <maryl@4taconic.com>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/18/2010 1:07 PM
Subject: FW:

Mary Leadbetter

Taconic Customer Service

PH: 800-832-0982 ext 223

Fax: 800-400-2220

From: Mary Leadbetter [mailto:maryl@4taconic.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 1:03 PM
To: 'aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov'; 'hkplb@waterboards.ca.gov'
Cc: 'jgray@co.santa-barbara.ca.us'; 'jcenteno@co.santa-barbara.ca.us'
Subject:

Hello Members of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Supervisors,

I am writing to let you know I concur 100% with Andy Caldwell's assessment outlined in letter "Concerning Staff Recommendations for Agricultural/Waste Discharge Requirements",

letter dated March 15th that I have copied below.

Stop your ridiculous policies!!

Mary Leadbetter

4515 Crew Lane

Santa Maria CA 93455

Letter by Andy Caldwell

In a nutshell,
your staff has created impossible standards, violated the rights of property owners, and virtually destroyed any semblance of trust and respect for your agency. It is most unfortunate that some of your key staff members may need to be terminated to salvage the opportunity to work with the citizens whose cooperation is essential for success.

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Specifically, we request that the Board specifically direct your Executive Officer to dismantle the agricultural regulatory program and re-assign those responsible for this debacle to other non-agricultural related programs or other regional boards.

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Sincerely,

J. Andrew Caldwell
Executive Director
COLAB of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbra Counties
www.colabsbc.org www.colabslo.org
COLAB
PO Box 7523
Santa Maria CA 93456
805-929-3148

I whole-heartedly concur.

Sincerely,

Julie Maxwell

From: "Sandy Jack" <sjack@charter.net>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>, <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: "Andy Caldwell" <andy@colabsbc.org>
Date: 3/22/2010 9:42 AM
Subject: Rescind the Proposed Regulations Affecting Agricultural Operations!

BlankDear Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Members:

My name is Sandy Jack and I urge you to read the following copy of a letter sent to you by COLABSBC and COLABSLO. This state does not need more draconian regulations that will further reduce our quality of life. What we need is responsible and reasonable regulation that truly meets a recognized need and where the regulators act in the best interests of the citizenry and they try to achieve a balance between humankind and the environment. It's all about balance.

Please follow the requested actions in the enclosed letter from Andy Caldwell, Executive Director of COLABSBC and COLABSLO. Your board is destroying this state, with the help of Sacramento, and as a concerned citizen I request that you work with COLABSBC and COLABSLO to find a solution to your perceived problems and the reality of ours. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

March 15, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order

Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges

From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

Delivered Via Email

Dear Board Members,

The desire to have clean water, viable habitats, and a healthy environment is a goal we all share.

The question is, how do we realize our goal and maintain our economy and the rights of the citizenry at the same time, while respecting the bounds of reason, science and best available control technology?

From: "Brent Wingett" <bwingett@charter.net>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/21/2010 2:45 PM
Subject: Waste Discharge Preliminary Draft Order

Dear Staff and Board Members,

I agree with the position taken by Mr. Caldwell and COLAB in the letter below on this issue. These requirements will be impossible to comply with. And even the attempt to comply will further damage a tenuous economy in our state and will drive farming out of California completely. Just consider what our state economy will look like with no wine or other farming industry in the future.

Please use common sense in regard to this issue and begin the process anew with the participation and cooperation of the farming industry to develop a plan that will actually work and will be a win-win for all parties involved. Please pass our comments along to all Board members.

Brent Wingett

3450 Amargon Rd.

Atascadero, CA 93422

March 15, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order

Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges

From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

From: "Jerry@Chris McCann" <jerry.mccann@verizon.net>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/18/2010 5:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!

To Waterboard,

Please pass along our concurrence to the members of the Board. This issue affects ag throughout the Central Coast!
Regards,
Jerry and Chris McCann

>Date: Thu, 18 Mar 2010 14:30:37 -0400 (EDT)
>From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
>Subject: Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!
>X-Originating-IP: [208.75.123.194]
>To: jerry.mccann@verizon.net
>Reply-to: charlie@colabsbc.org
>X-Mailer: Roving Constant Contact 2009 (<http://www.constantcontact.com>)
>X-Return-Path-Hint: ESC1103207823861_1101694484000_370@in.roving.com
>X-Roving-ID: 1101694484000.370
>X-Lumos-SenderID: 1101694484000
>X-Roving-CampaignId: 1103207823861
>X-Roving-StreamId: 0
>List-Unsubscribe:
>
><http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?p=un&v=001ti8yLLtrqgpXHbs0E17LW9JPwXoRxcd6ZYBWd-i35NipiFMLGYrrUQ==>
>Original-recipient: rfc822;jerry.mccann@verizon.net
>
><http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103207823861&s=370&e=001fGCRrV8K0ExB6UoNxpQdemjblb14t2HnwUcZIM7d9D3hGvA9vg4tdC4Joht2Nz0JSQi-NJXs4I6SLox7Qw9fCoPWRimjL1ftBxLdzqUGYYzrThaDVc4btSRF1_vPt8pJJ7IYzYE9QbuyovfaxJhqRXgpwyDHvYe1HC9kVExJUqxd9i-tfRA==>
>The Plunger Rebellion
>
>
>Dear Jerry & Chris,
>
>Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!
>
>Dear Concerned Citizens,
>
>
>
>If you agree with the content of the following
>letter, please forward this email to everyone
>and their Mother!, And, please send a copy to
>the staff of the Regional Water Quality Control
>Board at the following email addresses before
>April 1, and tell them pass along your
>concurrence to the members of the Board. This
>issue affects ag throughout the Central Coast!
>
>
>

From: Pamela Sommers <sommersplaces@aol.com>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/18/2010 1:54 PM
Subject: Fwd: Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!

Please read this and take the right action. Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Andy Caldwell <andy@colabsbc.org>
To: sommersplaces@aol.com
Sent: Thu, Mar 18, 2010 11:31 am
Subject: Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!

 Dear Lary, Help Defend Our Farmers and Ranchers with Just a Click and Foward!
Dear Concerned Citizens, If you agree with the content of the following letter, please forward this email to everyone and their Mother!, And, please send a copy to the staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board at the following email addresses before April 1, and tell them pass along your concurrence to the members of the Board. This issue affects ag throughout the Central Coast! The staff addresses are: aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov; hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov As a way of background: In a nutshell, the Water Boards want new buildings to be built in such a way so that in effect, no rain water leaves the site in a rain storm. This goal, albeit extremely expensive, is in some cases achievable compared to what this same regulatory agency is asking of farmers. Farmers are being asked to not only control the water quality flowing off of their farms from irrigation and rainstorms, they are also being asked to control the temperature of the water and the amount of dirt in the water. The regulators are in essence demanding that this wastewater be cleansed to drinking water standards and be beneficial to wildlife (the same wildlife that poses a food safety threat to the crops being cultivated!). Further, they are being asked to control the quality of the water that soaks into their fields to recharge the groundwater basin below their property. You would think such a standard is impossible and you would be right! The bottom line is Mother Nature, in the absence of mankind, does not meet these standards! Just how extreme is this measure? In science there is test for toxicity that has to do with the maximum tolerated dose which is the dose just beneath that which would be lethal. Of course, what is lethal to a human being may not be harmful at all to certain plants and animals. Often the size and makeup of the creature determines the tolerance level of the same with respect to exposure to "contaminants". The Water Board wants the maximum tolerated dose of criteria pollutants safe for a flea to ingest! That is right, a flea. A water flea, mind you, that does not live on the Central Coast to begin with!

March 15, 2010 Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010 Delivered Via Email Dear Board Members, The desire to have clean

From: Sandy Jekel <sandjekel@gmail.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/22/2010 10:17 AM
Subject: Water Concerns

I received the following letter by e mail and am very concerned about the drastic regulations put on the famers and ranchers in the area. We are being regulated and taxed out of business. This is rediculous, the lengths the environmentalists are going to for control and it driving farmers, ranchers and jobs out of California. We do care about OUR water and land. This has gotten way out of control with all the regulations and beaurocratic red tape. Enough is enough. Sandy Jekel, Creston CA.

March 15, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

Delivered Via Email

Dear Board Members,

The desire to have clean water, viable habitats, and a healthy environment is a goal we all share.

The question is, how do we realize our goal and maintain our economy and the rights of the citizenry at the same time, while respecting the bounds of reason, science and best available control technology?

How do we garner cooperation from the property owners and businesses that must be our partners in the process?

What is the best way to achieve our goals while respecting the demands of other regulatory agencies and market demands placed upon the same affected community?

Well, I can say one thing for sure. Your staff must not have had ANY of these questions in mind when they promulgated the Waste Discharge Preliminary Draft Order.

On behalf of The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business, I am writing to you to request that you at once terminate and rescind the proposed regulations affecting agricultural operations throughout the region and start over!

All of the constituent pollutants in the basin are NOT attributable to agriculture. Your staff wants agriculture to clean up their contribution to water quality degradation without ever having bothered to delineate what pollutants are actually attributable to agriculture!

The draft order issued by your staff is replete with gross exaggeration, hyperbole and rhetoric that should serve as an indicator to your board that something is amiss. The basic jest of the order tries to make the case that

From: "Judy Lundberg" <judy@babefarms.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/19/2010 9:31 AM
Subject: Water Quality

Dear Members of the Board:

I Concur with the comments of Colab on the issues before the board. Please consider the result of such a measure if passed on the Farmers in our county. We cannot continue to deal with these impact of these types of measure being forced on us. DO YOU WANT AGRICULTURE TO CONTINUE IN THIS COUNTY. IF YOU PASS THIS I WOULD SUGGEST YOU DONOT.

Judith A. Lundberg

President, Babe' Farms, Inc.

PO Box 6539

Santa Maria, CA. 93456

March 15, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order

Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges

From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

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J. Andrew Caldwell

Executive Director

COLAB of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbra Counties

<

COLAB

PO Box 7523

Santa Maria CA 93456

805-929-3148

For more information, call Andy Caldwell at 929-3148, or email him at
<<mailto:andy@colabsbc.org>> andy@colabsbc.org

I support these views 100%, please do the right thing.

Kristin Filipponi

From: <mike.harman@us.atlascopco.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <kholb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/19/2010 4:36 PM
Subject: Fw: Waste Water Discharge Requirements

Dear Board Members,

Please tell me that the information in the email below from COLAB is not factual.

If the information in it is truthful, what is your response to this information and plan for rectifying the situation.

Respectfully,

-Mike Harman

March 15, 2010

Comments to: The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Concerning the Preliminary Staff Recommendations for an Agricultural Order Conditionally Waiving Individual Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands. Dated: February 1, 2010

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All of the constituent pollutants in the basin are NOT attributable to

From: <PBHBRCo@aol.com>
To: <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/19/2010 12:55 PM
Subject: (no subject)
Attachments: Reg Water Quality Control Board attachment 031910.doc

Dear Members of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

I agree 100% with the attached analysis by Andy Caldwell regarding the preliminary water quality recommendations your staff has put together and wants Agriculture (Ranchers and Farmers) to comply with. For forty years I had the responsibility of operating two major cattle ranches in Santa Barbara County belonging to Bixby Ranch Company, and we dry farmed 600 acres on those ranches. All our water was supplied by springs plus a few wells. We drank that water, and our cattle and animals drank that water, and all of us lived long, healthy lives, although I'm sure your staff would rule our water "unsafe" drinking water. One of the main reasons we didn't get into more profitable, irrigated crops was because our lawyers told us we would have to "purify" the ground water we used before putting it back in the ground. A ridiculous and very expensive requirement to impose on already meager agricultural profits.

Regulations like your staff is proposing are the kind of rules that are forcing more and more Central Coast agricultural operations to shut down or sell out. And yet everyone allegedly wants the Central Coast's agricultural heritage to continue and prosper and keep our historic "rural open space" from being "developed". If that's the case, I agree with Mr. Caldwell. You need to put your agricultural water quality regulation drafting in the hands of a staff that understands agriculture in the Central Coast area and is not getting its ideas from an urban background and textbook.

Sincerely,

Preston B. Hotchkis
Chairman (retired)
Bixby Ranch Company

Dear members of the water board. My family has been farming in Santa Barbara County since the 1800s. We have done many things over the years to improve over what mother nature has given us. Things like erosion control structures, management plans, and sediment retaining structures. Our family wants to stay on our land for another 100+ years. What your staff has proposed will drive all of us stewards of the land out of business in the next several years if it is passed.

It is time for you as a board to show the leadership qualities that I am sure got you a position on the water board in the first place. I have been on many boards over the years and a school board member for over 12 years now. I can tell you from my experience you need to straighten out your staff. You need to take control of this process. This is one of the things that makes America unique, we have private citizens like yourself in charge of these processes so that when we get a staff that is disconnected and pushing their own agenda and not working cooperatively with an industry (in this case family farmers and ranchers) as they are not in this case, you straighten them out and give them guidance to get them back on track.

I whole heartedly support Colabs letter to you. Thank you for addressing this matter.

Bill Giorgi
Nojoqui Falls Ranch.

From: "Don Landers" <donaldjt@verizon.net>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>, <hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: <andy@colabsbc.org>
Date: 3/18/2010 2:35 PM

Dear Board members,

The Colab has asked our support ... requesting reasonable regulations on our farmers. I do. I certainly concur that farmers should not be held responsible for pre- existing contamination not directly a result of their farm practices. And I do feel that gnats sometimes receive more consideration than we humans.

However, I strongly urge that you do as much as possible to protect our environment and contain/eradicate the pollutants that have significantly increased in this valley over the past 30 years. Many of our friends and neighbors have moved from this area because of health problems due to allergens and pollutants --- many more continue to suffer. Ask any pharmacist what remedies are most in demand in this area.

Farmers have held a special spot in America's heart for centuries, but since it has become mega-business, they have done much to soil their popularity. Past costly and obvious pollution practices are only part of it. Costly lawsuits to enable them to grab ever bigger shares of the bargain-price water that taxpayers have provided, have not helped their image. Ignoring their responsibility for the illegal immigration that has proved so costly to our state and the average citizen is an even larger dis-service. Our farms have long been the Ellis Island of the West .minus any gate keeper.

Note to farmers ---obey our laws---- be good caretakers of our land--- if you must hire outside our country, do it legally and responsibly ..then you might find greater support within the community.

Sincerely,

M.V. Landers

1531 Wallis

Santa, Maria, Ca