

From: <gjohnsen@wilburellis.com>
To: <aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 12/30/2010 3:03 PM
Subject: CCRWQB Request for Public Comments on Draft Agricultural Order dated November 19, 2010

Gregg Johnsen
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December 30, 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:

Protecting the environment, groundwater and wildlife should be and is important to all of us. Our future children will be drinking the water, and using the land. Agriculture is necessary to feed the ever growing population. Food is not manufactured in the store, it is grown in the valley by people trying to grow a quality crop the best way they can. They don't intentionally try to damage the environment, they are doing things they were taught to do by their fathers and teachers. The way they farm can be changed, but it will be hard on everybody to do overnight. These practices have been going on for decades. I think it would be going to an extreme to force them to change their practices immediately. I agree something needs to be done, but I think it would be wiser and more accepted to do it in stages, so people don't feel overwhelmed with regulations. Agriculture can and will survive with fewer more efficient inputs, and the rest of us need food to survive. Please think of the whole picture while making the decisions that will affect us all.

I urge the Board to listen to growers' feedback and suggestions, including mine, and incorporate that feedback into the draft Ag Order. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders. Loss of grower cooperation will be counterproductive to improving water quality.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Gregg Johnsen
831- 595-7759
Branch Manager
Wilbur Ellis Co.

