



September 27, 2008

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Re: Renewal of Discharge Permit, Woodland Waste Water Treatment Plant (Yolo County)

Dear Regional Water Quality Control Board,

I write in my capacity as president of Yolo Audubon Society (membership 600 or so). It has come to our attention that the renewal process for the discharge permit for the Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant will include consideration as to whether or not to permit public access to the plant.

Yolo Audubon hereby requests that access to settling ponds at this facility – in particular, Erskin pond – continue. With the loss of wetlands across the Central Valley, artificially created wetlands have grown in importance for bird species that migrate or winter in our region. This is really one of the most important regular migratory shorebird sites for the Central Valley.

Yolo Audubon members monitor migratory species at this location. We have also, this year, embarked upon a Breeding Bird Atlas for Yolo County, a survey which is coordinated at the national level through USGS and which will provide valuable data on the health of breeding populations.

Access to this location by birders has been controlled by opening hours and a sign-in sheet. To the knowledge of the board of directors, there has never been any occasion where a birder has approached the water (the levee west of the pond provides by far the best vantage point for viewing birds; approaching the water is unnecessary). Perusal of the sign-in sheet shows that there is roughly one visitor per week.

To summarize: this is a very valuable piece of habitat for migratory and wintering species of birds, mostly waterfowl and shorebirds; we wish to continue to have access to this facility to monitor these species. If this needs to be controlled by means of signing of waivers and checking in at the office, we would agree to this, but urge you to continue to permit access to this important location. Our relationship with the staff at the Woodland facility has been, and continues to be, excellent.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Alison Kent  
President