



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 8, 2010

Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Dear Ms. Creedon:

I write to commend the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for taking this action to renew the permit for the Sacramento Wastewater Treatment Plant, whose permit expired in 2005 and has been on administrative extensions ever since. I am encouraged that your Board has issued a draft permit that takes an incremental approach by requiring that significant reductions in contaminants be achieved by 2020 unless studies show they are not needed.

I have become convinced that the problems in the Delta are the result of multiple stressors – not just the pumps for water exports. These stressors include pesticides, ammonia, toxic contaminants and bacteria, invasive clams, predator fish, barriers to fish passage, and others.

As you know, the National Academy of Sciences is reviewing these stressors and, by November 2011, will produce another report that will identify the factors that may be contributing to the decline of endangered and threatened species. The Academy's first report concluded that "the adverse effects of all the other stressors on the [endangered and threatened] fishes are potentially large." I am eager for the results of the Academy's forthcoming study on these stressors as well as the studies required by your draft permit.

Again, thank you for taking action on this issue this year. I look forward to working with you and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District to complete the studies called for in the draft permit and implement necessary upgrades to the facility. I applaud your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:lr