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Del Strange
464 E. Jackson Ave.
Tulare, CA 93274
August 21, 2012
4:30 pm

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**
**CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

RE: Additional Comments On the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-XXXX and Public Workshop.

Dear Board Members:

I sat through over six (6) hours of your public meeting today and never got the chance to make my oral comments as promised. I just recently had lower back surgery and sat through this fiasco in much pain, so much so that I had to leave shortly after 4:00 pm today.

In addition to the written comments that I delivered to your staff today on Finding 28, Page 7, (copy enclosed), I would have liked to have made the following comments before you:

1. Regarding the "legacy impacts" to groundwater, they obviously exist and we must find a way to resolve them. A big stumbling block on this matter is,"Who should pay?"

   Let's stop pointing fingers! After all, it's a "group" problem that we've all inherited. Let's deal with it.

   There is a solution! Much like no-fault automobile insurance, a fee should be levied on and paid for by all and with new more strict regulations to greatly reduce or avoid altogether future potential adverse impacts on groundwater quality.

   A "flat tax" or "flat fee" could be easily amortized over a large number of people, such as property tax assessments annually on all property owners within the Tulare Lake Basin Area. Such revenue would need to be carefully used to fund a well-thought-out groundwater monitoring plan.

2. Much has been said about the need for current groundwater quality management practices being used by many farmers and ranchers today. However, most are reluctant to offer their current practices without all being required to do so. Therefore, it would be necessary for your board to enact a mandatory reporting of all current practices for each farm, ranch, parcel, etc. This should be done immediately before proceeding any further with the subject Order, allowing your board and staff to carefully evaluate the real problem and address the real issues.

3. May I suggest that your board establish a policy of keeping the public comment period open for at least seven (7) days following any such public workshop or public meeting to allow an opportunity for written comments to be submitted based on what was learned at said workshop or meeting. This would be conducive to greater public participation and a more complete and effective public document.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important matter.

Respectfully yours,

Del Strange

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RE: Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2013-XXXX For Members of a Third-Party Group Within the Tulare Lake Basin Area, Excluding the Area of the Westlands Stormwater Coalition -- Comments on the Existing and Potential Beneficial Uses of the Waters of the Tulare Lake Basin Area, Finding 28, Page 7.

Dear Board Members:

I strongly feel that the 18 subject existing or potential beneficial uses of the waters, as referenced above, should be prioritized not only for current reference but future use as well.

The Draft Order before us today clearly emphasizes "Protecting public health and ensuring safe drinking water are among the highest priorities of this Order." [Finding 18, P.5]

In addition, the Order states that "The board must also assure that... the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained." [Finding 37, P.9]

In order to prioritize the 18 existing or potential beneficial uses listed, one must first determine which uses are essential to the basic survival of life, to progress and development, to maintaining the environment, and to recreation and entertainment. Taking each of these into careful consideration, it becomes obvious that the following priority emerges:

1. Basic Survival of Life (Requirements):

   A. Human (air, water, food, fiber, & energy)
   B. Plant (water, air, and source of food and fiber for human survival)
   C. Animal (air, water, and source of food for human survival)
   D. Fish (water, air, and source of food for human survival)

2. Human Progress and Development:

   A. Commercial and Industrial (jobs, products, growth, etc,)
   B. Navigation (a means of transporting people and goods)

3. Maintaining the Environment:

   A. Wildlife Habitat
   B. Cold Freshwater Habitat
   C. Warm Freshwater Habitat
   D. Migration of Aquatic Organisms
   E. Spawning, Reproduction and Development
   F. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
   G. Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance

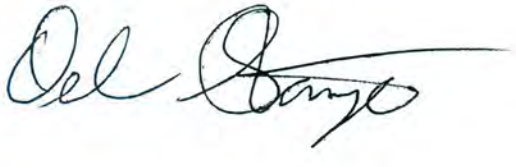
4. Recreation and Entertainment:

   A. Water Contact Recreation
   B. Non-Contact Water Recreation

After careful review, it becomes clear that the list of existing and potential beneficial uses should be prioritized as follows, to ensure the protection of public health and safe drinking water of the highest quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state:

a. Municipal and Domestic Supply -- food, fiber, & energy; human life
b. Agricultural Supply -- food & fiber
c. Aquaculture -- food
d. Groundwater Recharge -- municipal, domestic, & agricultural supply
e. Hydropower Generation -- energy (cooking, heating, air conditioning, laundry, etc., etc.)
f. Industrial Service Supply -- food (farm equipment) & jobs
g. Industrial Process Supply -- food (processing & packing) & jobs
h. Freshwater Replenishment -- crop irrigation (surface water) & aquaculture
i. Navigation -- transporting people & goods
j. Wildlife Habitat
k. Cold Freshwater Habitat
l. Warm Freshwater Habitat
m. Migration of Aquatic Organisms
n. Spawning, Reproduction and Development
o. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
p. Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance
q. Water Contact Recreation
r. Non-Contact Water Recreation

In an effort to establish the much-needed priority guidelines to help with future decision making by your board and others, I strongly feel that the above priority list of the 18 existing and potential beneficial uses should be substituted for the list currently shown in Finding 28. To do so now will save alot of unnecessary work and delays by everyone, including your board and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important matter.

Respectfully yours,