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Subject: Incidental Runoff of Recycled Water

Lauren -

I assist public and private clients with the design, permitting, and construction of recycled water facilities. I am happy to see that support for Resolution 77-1 is being considered for explicit inclusion in a revised Basin Plan for the North Coast.

What is needed at this point is explicit support and implementation of the 24 February 2004 SWRCB staff recommendation to the regional board Executive Officers regarding the incidental runoff of recycled water.

The uncertainties associated with this issue really do prevent some potential recycled water users from moving ahead with the implementation of Resolution 77-1.

My understanding is that DeltaKeeper and others have already taken Region Five to task for implementing this recommended policy (incidental runoff). My understanding is further that SWRCB decided that DeltaKeeper et al had no standing because the permit in question was a WRR permit and not a NPDES discharge permit. This leaves the question entirely unresolved.

Eventually, a wastewater treatment facility will seek a permit which will include a discharge to surface water (making it an NPDES permit) and also seeking, as an alternative means of disposal/re-use, the ability to re-use a portion of the treated wastewater for beneficial uses which would displace the use of potable water (a stated goal of State policy). Eventually, we will need a finding that an occasional misdirected sprinkler head should not trigger an enforcement action by the Regional Board.

I would like to see the incidental runoff of recycled water included on your list of incidental, low-threat discharges. I would like to see this issue addressed for conformance with CEQA, in the CEQA portion of the Functional Equivalent Document.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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