



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Geoffrey M. Hales, Chairman**

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 22, 2010

Contact Name
Dairy Name
Dairy Address

Dear Mr./Mrs. Name:

Subject: Dairy Waste Management

Dairies are an integral and important part of the economy and landscape of the North Coast Region. As with any animal feeding operation, waste handling at dairies can have an impact on water quality. Historically, water quality regulation of dairies has focused on limiting runoff and managing waste application. However, increasing concerns about nutrient discharges into the waters of the state require a more structured approach.

In light of the need to address potential water quality impacts, including nutrient management, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will propose a three-tier permitting program for North Coast Region dairies. The draft dairy water quality compliance program is tentatively scheduled for Regional Water Board adoption in late Spring 2011. The program will focus on controlling nutrients, sediment, temperature, bacteria, and other pollutants. Regional Water Board staff is currently drafting each of the three components of the dairy water quality compliance program, and once adopted each North Coast dairy will fall under one of the following components depending upon onsite conditions:

1. Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (**NPDES**) permit for Confined Animal Facilities
2. State General Waste Discharge Requirements (**GWDR**) Order
3. State **Waiver** of Waste Discharge Requirements

The public will have the opportunity to comment on the draft dairy water quality compliance program documents within the coming months.

To provide North Coast dairies the opportunity to review and comment on the draft documents, and to assist dairies in understanding and implementing the new program,

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we will be conducting substantial outreach. To assist us in this outreach effort, we have enclosed a Contact Information Form that will enable us to provide you with information and resources as we develop and implement the dairy water quality compliance program in the North Coast.

Please complete the enclosed Contact Information Form and return it to the Regional Water Board by January 3, 2011. This form is not a permit application. If you own and/or operate more than one dairy, please submit a separate survey for each facility.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a public scoping meeting prior to release of draft project documents. The purpose of the CEQA scoping meeting is to receive comments regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with the program. The meeting will be held **January 12, 2011, from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM** at our office located at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. The draft permits will not be ready for release at this meeting. Future meetings regarding the content of the draft permit components will be held at multiple locations in the North Coast.

Additional information about the North Coast Region's water quality compliance program for dairies can be obtained at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/dairies/

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed form, please contact Cherie Blatt of the Regional Water Board at (707) 576-2755 or by email at cblatt@waterboards.ca.gov or her supervisor Mark Neely at (707) 576-2689. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer

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Enclosure: Dairy Contact Information Form