

From: <jclarke@steinbeckproduce.com>
To: <agorder@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 12/27/2010 11:28 AM
Subject: CCRWQB Request for Public Comments on Draft Agricultural Order dated November 19, 2010

Jennifer Clarke
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December 27, 2010

Jeffery Young
Chairman of the Board
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Young:

I am writing to you to voice my concern with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed Ag Order. It is disappointing to have witnessed a process that has been so hostile towards Agriculture when California's income and success rests on the success of Agriculture in this State. It is clear that these proposed rules are completely unrealistic, unworkable, and burdensome for the agricultural industry. I believe that these new rules would add major costs to all agricultural operations without benefiting water quality.

The health of the land we farm, the water we use, and the environment that we live and work in has always been a priority in the farming community as a whole. If the proposed Ag Order is adopted as it is currently written many productive farm acres will be lost along the central coast and growers will be forced to change practices and spend money on monitoring and reporting that will have no impact on improving water quality. This will equate to a loss of yield, revenue, and eventually a loss of jobs in our Central Coast communities.

I am in strong support of the Ag Alternative Draft Waiver submitted on December 3, 2010. I believe that to truly improve water quality we must work with researchers and the UC Davis Agricultural Corporative Extension to utilize the newest technologies. It is with science and research that we will best be able to find practices that work to improve water quality without harming the viability of Agriculture.

I urge the Board to listen to growers' feedback and suggestions, including mine, and incorporate that feedback into the draft Ag Order. Any future Ag Order must be designed with achievable objectives and must be a transparent and collaborative process that utilizes agricultural stakeholders. Loss of grower cooperation will be counterproductive to improving water quality.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clarke