

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 11-12 April 2013**

**Response to Written Comments for City of Tulare,
Wastewater Treatment Facility,
Special Order Rescinding
Cease and Desist Order R5-2002-0186**

At a public hearing scheduled for 11 and 12 April 2013, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), will consider adoption of a Special Order to rescind Cease and Desist Order R5-2002-0186. This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the Special Order initially circulated on 29 January 2013. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 28 February 2013 to receive full consideration. Comments were received from Jo Anne Kipps.

Written comments from the above interested party are summarized below, followed by the responses of Central Valley Water Board staff. Central Valley Water Board staff did not make changes to the Special Order based on the comments.

JO ANNE KIPPS COMMENTS

Via email on 28 February 2013, Jo Anne Kipps submitted a letter with comments on the tentative Special Order.

Ms. Kipps Comment No. 1: Finding 10 of the tentative Special Order states, “The ongoing discharges from the WWTF are not expected to cause groundwater degradation that exceeds applicable water quality objectives or adversely affects beneficial uses.” Since the Discharger has not characterized groundwater potentially influenced by sludge discharges to soil cement-lined drying beds, this statement only applies to groundwater influenced by discharges of commingled effluents from the Domestic Plant and Industrial Plant. This sentence should be revised to read: “The ongoing discharges from the WWTF of commingled Domestic and Industrial Plant effluents to percolation ponds and Use Areas are not expected to cause groundwater degradation that exceeds applicable water quality objectives or adversely affect beneficial uses.” The tentative Special Order should also include a finding that describes the efforts taken (or not taken) by the Discharger to demonstrate that soil cement-lined sludge drying beds are effective in ensuring sludge discharges do not cause or contribute to exceedances of applicable water quality objectives.

RESPONSE: The requested changes have not been made. The ongoing discharges from the WWTF are not expected to cause groundwater degradation that exceeds applicable water quality objectives or adversely affects beneficial uses. Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Master Recycling Permit to be considered for adoption by the Board include a provision that would require the Discharger to characterize the discharge to the sludge drying beds and assess the potential groundwater degradation associated with the beds based on estimated mass loading of waste constituents to groundwater. Licensed engineers contracted by the Discharger assert that the soil cement liners maintain adequate performance. The comment above appears to presuppose a particular outcome of the sludge drying bed assessment.