

# California Legislature



October 29, 2007

John Muller, Chair  
San Francisco Bay Regional  
Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Muller and members of the Board:

We are writing to express our support for measurable reductions in trash in our creeks and the Bay as a requirement in the Water Board's pending Municipal Regional Permit (MRP).

Trash in the Bay is a serious problem that needs effective action now. While concerned citizens can make a difference by volunteering to pick up trash on our shoreline on Coastal Cleanup Day, we need more comprehensive public policy and regulation to protect the Bay from trash and marine debris.

As you know, and the public is beginning to realize, trash and plastic debris pollution is a serious water quality issue for the Bay and its creeks. The Water Board's own study found that, on average, there are three pieces of trash along every foot of stream and creek leading to the Bay. Because much of the trash in our water is plastic, it never biodegrades. Animals get entangled by trash, suffer and die. Further, wildlife frequently cannot tell trash apart from their regular diets and eating this "junk" food with no nutrients leads to starvation.

The MRP is an essential tool to control this problem. Bay Area cities and counties can help enormously by taking more responsibility for preventing trash from getting into the Bay. If Los Angeles can do it, we can do it, too!

Please ensure that trash provisions in the upcoming MRP require measurable reductions in trash discharge, specify enforceable measures and timelines for implementation, and require cities and counties to make their trash data accessible to the public.

Preventing trash pollution is an important priority; we encourage the Board to take action on this problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

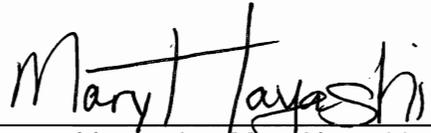
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Loni Hancock

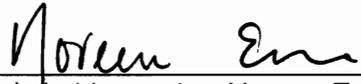
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Don Perata  
President pro Tem of the Senate



John Muller, Chair  
San Francisco Bay Regional  
Water Quality Control Board  
October 29, 2007  
Page 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Tom Torlakson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Mary Hayashi

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Noreen Evans

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Sally Lieber

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Joe Coto

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Ira Ruskin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Gene Mullin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Fiona Ma

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Sandré Swanson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier