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Assembly California Legislature



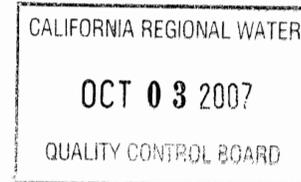
ALBERTO TORRICO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTIETH DISTRICT
DIRECTOR OF MAJORITY AFFAIRS

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September 28, 2007

San Francisco Bay Regional
Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay St. Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612



Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my support for measurable trash reductions 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 to be resolved. While concerned citizens can make a difference by volunteering to pick up trash at our shoreline sites on Coastal Cleanup Day, cities and counties must do their part to protect the Bay from trash and marine debris.

Trash and plastic debris pollution is a serious water quality problem in 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 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 must take more responsibility for preventing trash from getting into the Bay. If Los Angeles can do it, we can do it here, 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; I encourage the Board to take action on this problem. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alberto O. Torrico
Assemblymember, 20th District