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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

10 July 2013

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### EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW OF PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS TO ADD POLICIES FOR VARIANCES AND EXCEPTIONS

Thank you for agreeing to provide a scientific review of the proposed basin plan amendments to add policies for variances and exceptions to the two water quality control plans for the Central Valley. My letter today is intended to initiate the next phase of the external review – the actual review itself.

Enclosed with this letter are the following:

- a) The 16 May 2013 request for external reviewers, including 4 attachments, signed by Kenneth Landau, Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board. Please note that Attachments 1 and 2 of the request letter have been revised as indicated in red.
- b) January 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines.
- c) Key documents for review consisting of the Staff Report dated July 2013 and the references included in Attachment 4 of the request letter. The Staff Report is provided in hard copy format as well as electronically along with the references in the enclosed CD.

#### Comments on the foregoing:

1. You have been sent the request letter during the solicitation process for reviewer candidates conducted by the University of California.
2. Attachment 2 to the request letter provides focus for the review. I ask that you address all topics, as expertise allows, in the order listed.
3. The January 7, 2009 Supplement. In part, this provides guidance to ensure the review is kept confidential through its course. The Supplement notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third-parties after reviews have been submitted. We recommend they do not. All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action through a well-defined regulatory process. Direct third-parties to me.

Please return your review directly to me. Questions about the review, or review material, should be for clarification, in writing – email is fine, and addressed to me at [byee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:byee@waterboards.ca.gov) or at the following address:

Betty Yee  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

My responses will also be in writing. The State Water Resources Control Board should not be contacted. The peer review will be part of the formal record for this basin plan amendment and selected documents will be posted on the program website and the State Water Board's Scientific Peer Review website.

I would appreciate your review being completed by 2 August 2013. Your acceptance of this review assignment is most appreciated.



BETTY YEE  
Senior Water Resources Control Engineer

Enclosures

cc: Mr. David Coupe, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board,  
Sacramento

Mr. Gerald Bowes, Office of Research, Planning and Performance, State Water Resources  
Control Board, Sacramento