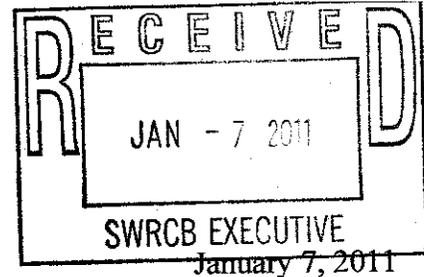


**BACWA**  
**BAY AREA**  
**CLEAN WATER**  
**AGENCIES**



Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

*Via electronic mail:* [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Subject: Comment Letter - CEC Monitoring for Recycled Water

Dear Ms. Townsend and Members of the Board:

The Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the November 8, 2010 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Staff Report – *Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) Monitoring for Recycled Water*. BACWA is a local government agency comprised of public utilities serving the 6.9 million people in the nine county Bay Area, and is dedicated to working with its member agencies, the state and federal governments, as well as non-governmental organizations to deliver the best information about the water quality and enhancement of the San Francisco Bay. An important element of BACWA's work includes developing and promoting the use of recycled water.

We are aware that the Association of California Water Agencies, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and the WaterReuse Association (Associations) have submitted comments on the draft report, and we endorse the Associations' recommended comments. With respect to the many details addressed by the staff report we refer you to the joint comment letter submitted by the Associations. In addition, we urge the SWRCB to consider the following observations on behalf of BACWA.

In general we agree with the staff report, and we would like to commend the Board staff for their effort. We support the recommendation that the Board adopt the findings of the "Blue Ribbon" Science Advisory Panel contained in their report, *Monitoring Strategies for Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Recycled Water* (June 25, 2010). That Panel was convened as the result of a collaborative stakeholder process that included water and wastewater agency managers and representatives of environmental advocacy groups. As noted in the staff report, the Science Advisory Panel's recommendations reflect the best scientific analysis currently available with respect to the prevalence of CECs and their potential impact on human health through the use of recycled water for nonpotable (landscape irrigation) or potable (groundwater recharge) purposes.

However, we do not support Staff's recommendation surface spreading groundwater recharge/reuse projects should also be required to monitor the additional constituents suggested by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in their letter of September

13, 2010. Before making its recommendations, the Science Advisory Panel developed a rigorous, systematic protocol to determine the value of monitoring any given constituent. The purpose was to indicate either the risk of exposure to recycled water, or the effectiveness of the treatment processes used to manufacture it. It was this protocol that resulted in the Panel's recommendation to substitute surrogate measurements for CECs in irrigation projects, thereby allowing our communities to continue to use recycled water for nonpotable purposes and reduce the strain on our limited drinking water supplies. The CDPH staff provided no basis for adding these chemicals to the list of monitored constituents, either in their letter or at the SWRCB workshop on December 15, 2010.

If the SWRCB adds the constituents suggested by CDPH to the list of monitored constituents without first testing them according to the Science Advisory Panel protocol, it will not only challenge the validity of the Panel's framework for monitoring CECs, it will also undermine the legitimacy of the collaborative process itself. In which case, we would be concerned that future additional monitoring requirements might be imposed upon landscape irrigation projects without any adequate scientific basis for doing so. We also have a similar concern about any direction that may be given to the nine Regional Boards to add monitoring requirements to reuse project permits without adequate scientific review.

As stated in Section 2 – Purpose of the Policy, a goal of the Board's Recycled Water Policy is to increase the use of recycled water and to maximize consistency in the permitting of recycled water projects. To this end, we encourage you to adopt the recommendations of the Science Advisory Panel report, "Monitoring Strategies for Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Recycled Water" without modification.

BACWA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the SWRCB staff report, and we look forward to continuing to work with the SWRCB on this issue. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at [achastain@bacwa.org](mailto:achastain@bacwa.org)

Sincerely,



Amy Chastain  
Executive Director  
BACWA