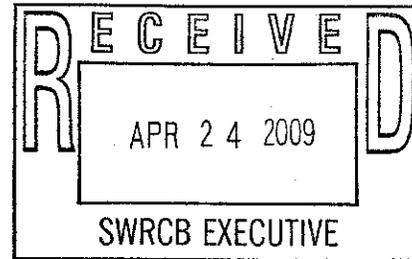


# PLAYA VISTA

April 22, 2009

Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "P" Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Ms. Townsend:

**RE: Proposed Adoption of Resolution Approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration Covering General Waste Discharge Requirements for Landscape Irrigation Uses of Municipal Recycled Water and Proposed Adoption of the General Permit**

Playa Vista is a growing community in west Los Angeles, currently with over 6,000 residents. As part of our long-standing commitment to sustainability, we are the first planned community in Los Angeles designed and constructed to utilize recycled water for all landscape irrigation within the community, as well as toilet flushing within commercial office buildings. Recently, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began providing recycled water to Playa Vista, which is treated at the Hyperion Treatment Plant (to full secondary treatment) and the West Basin Water Treatment Facility (tertiary treatment), both located in the South Bay area. We represent the first outdoor residential use of recycled water within the City of Los Angeles, as well as the first commercial complex where recycled water is used for indoor toilet flushing.

The increased use of recycled water has benefits beyond solely conserving potable domestic water. For instance, because the wastewater that is reclaimed receives additional (tertiary) treatment at West Basin, more wastewater would be treated to higher standards with increased recycled water use. Wastewater which would otherwise receive only secondary treatment at Hyperion and be discharged to the ocean under existing permits would be treated to tertiary standards for recycled usage, resulting in improved wastewater treatment and decreased discharge of wastewater into the ocean. Both of these seem to be desirable goals and should be encouraged.

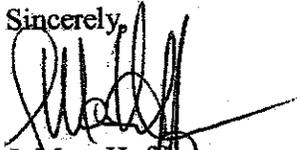
As an end user of recycled water, Playa Vista supports the State Water Resources Control Board in its effort to promote the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation uses, and its intent to streamline the regulatory process for such uses. However, although the draft General Permit is intended for Producers and Distributors of recycled water, it appears to contain several provisions which may place additional burdens on Users of recycled water. These burdens include increased staffing requirements, regular training requirements, development of operations and maintenance plans, and daily monitoring of recycled water usage. These requirements are in addition to already-existing

requirements that users of recycled water are subject to under the State and County Departments of Health.

At a time when water conservation has become paramount, and especially in these difficult economic times, the State should be providing incentives for end users to increase the use of recycled water – not imposing additional burdens. Playa is concerned that the unintended consequence of these new requirements will likely be that many potential users of recycled water will simply choose to continue to utilize domestic water, rather than subject themselves to the additional costs and burdens associated with recycled water. For existing communities already using recycled water, these additional costs might be borne by the homeowners, through increased homeowner's association dues, when many homeowners throughout the state are already having a difficult time making ends meet. And in the event the use of recycled water is a project requirement, these additional costs will further reduce project viability, at a time when the State desperately needs the help of responsible development projects to create jobs and get the economy back on track.

In summary, Playa Vista encourages the State Board to adopt a General Permit that is not only protective of the environment and human health, but also does not inadvertently discourage the use of recycled water, diminish its important benefits, and impede State and local goals of promoting the use of recycled water.

Sincerely,



J. Marc Huffman  
Vice President, Planning & Entitlements