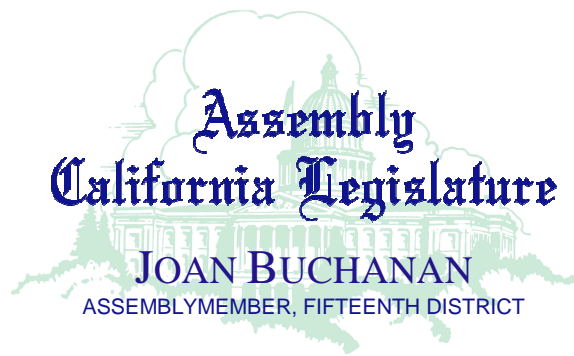


STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0015  
(916) 319-2015  
FAX (916) 319-2115

DISTRICT OFFICE  
2694 BISHOP DRIVE #275  
SAN RAMON, CA 94583  
(925) 328-1515  
FAX (925) 328-1514



October 8, 2010

Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Draft Discharge Permit

Dear Ms. Creedon,

I am writing in regard to the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (Draft Permit) for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD).

The Draft Permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) requires SRCSD to remove all ammonia and nitrates from their discharge, as well as install micro filtration and UV disinfection processes to remove very small particles and pathogens from the treated effluent. SRCSD estimates the cost of these retrofitting requirements to be up to \$2 billion.

In 2009, the Legislature enacted legislation establishing policies for the Delta to carry out the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Among the objectives cited in the legislation are "restoring the Delta ecosystem, including its fisheries and wildlife, as the heart of a healthy estuary and wetland ecosystem" and "improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta." For the improved health of the Delta ecosystem and for those who drink water that comes from the Delta, it is critically important to reduce pollutants to the greatest extent possible.

The Sacramento region, like all of California, is suffering from the worst economic crisis in memory. The impacts for residential and commercial ratepayers and the burden of significantly higher fees for new construction must be addressed.

SRCSD should not be held solely responsible for the many problems that the Delta is experiencing. The State Water Resources Control Board recently adopted Flow Criteria

for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem that addresses the need for significantly higher flows thru the Delta. Your Regional Board has issued 18 permits to other dischargers that do not require the standards that are required in the Draft Permit for SRCSD. All dischargers must be held to the highest science supported standards, but without adequate flows thru the Delta and its rivers all discharges pose a risk.

I urge you to work with SRCSD to agree on a plan to make the needed improvements to their discharges in such a way that it does not impose an inappropriate economic burden on the Sacramento region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joan Buchanan  
Assemblymember  
15<sup>th</sup> District