

**From:** Glenn Bielefelt [REDACTED]  
**To:** <kharder@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 10/7/2010 9:07 PM  
**Subject:** New permit for the Sacramento Regional Treatment Plant

Ms. Harder,

I am completely frustrated with the news about the new permit that essentially requires a major expansion of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove. As far as I can tell there seems to be no bonafide reason to embark on this expansion. In addition, it will directly cost the rate payers of the region over 2 billion dollars and probably twice as much in debt service over the next several decades. To clarify: everyone's monthly bill will increase from \$20 per month to over \$60 per month! How many other important issues in the Sacramento area could this money be used for if it wasn't required to expand a wastewater facility that has been serving our region and the environment very well for the last 30 years?

I am in the environmental industry and I have read the entire permit and it makes no sense to me at all. The whole permit is not based on verifiable science but rather the opinion of the regional water board. I know the mission of the water board is to protect the waters of the state of California but in this new permit their focus is too narrow. In their desire to ensure the highest water quality standards for all beneficial uses I think they have forgotten an axiom of environmental treatment: "The solution to pollution is dilution." Everything we dispose of in society must somehow be returned to the environment. There is not a technology that will simply make our waste disappear; and, if waste isn't returned to the environment then it is often managed by storing it in landfills, ponds, tanks, containers, and dumps which may leave a nasty hazard for the future.

There are many new technologies for wastewater treatment but they are very energy and resource intensive. These new technologies can treat wastewater almost to drinking water standards but in the meantime tons of emissions will be discharged to the air and landfills to create all of the electricity and chemicals needed to support such processes. The water board's attempt to protect the waters of the State will pollute the air and the land with even more highly concentrated waste products generated by these new treatment processes.

As a rate payer I am offended by the over regulated, unnecessary, and unproven course the regional water board has directed in the new permit. I believe any citizen that is truly interested in being a good steward of the environment -- no matter where they reside in the State -- cannot support the radical new discharge permit issued to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. It's just wrong: It's wrong for the Sacramento region and it's wrong for the overall health of the environment.

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