

October 6, 2010, 2010

Attn: Kathleen Cole Harder  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Dr., Suite #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**Re: SRCSD Tentative NPDES Permit**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our concern over the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (CVRWQCB) draft permit recommendations for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

The recommendations go well beyond what is "reasonable and necessary" under the federal Clean Water Act. Additionally, they do not appear to give appropriate consideration to the economic impact of these measures. Implementation of the "Tentative Discharge Permit" would have a significant impact on local ratepayers and businesses here in the Sacramento Region.

As a chamber of commerce we represent the interests of hundreds of businesses in our region. Our aim is to support the business community and to foster a strong local economy. This requires a cost and regulatory environment that is business friendly and competitive with other regions in and out of our state.

We understand and support the need to be environmental stewards. It is to the benefit of our region, our quality of life and even our economy that we take measures to protect our environment and our ecosystem. Such efforts, however, must be based upon established science and must also be balanced with their economic impacts. We feel the Tentative (draft) Permit, issued to SRCSD, fails to meet those standards. Implementation of its requirements will result in excessive burden to the greater Sacramento Region. This cost is not appropriately balanced given the inconclusive benefits to the environment or public health.

If SRCSD is required to increase the level of wastewater treatment as outlined in the draft permit, at a cost of \$2 billion, ratepayers of the Sacramento Region could see their rates triple--an unreasonable burden even in good economic times. Businesses seeking hookups could see their



hookup fee quadruple, likely putting an end to many entrepreneurs' vision and costing our region jobs at a time when we so desperately need them.

The coming years will be a time to rebuild our regional economy and not the time to saddle residential and business ratepayers with arduous cost increases. It is premature to impose a \$2 billion regulatory burden upon the Sacramento community to further clean up its wastewater discharges when Sacramento is currently meeting or exceeding all state and federal criteria and given that the scientific evidence of the ecological benefits of the proposed improvements is still uncertain. Before our region is forced to construct massive facility upgrades, we believe it prudent to obtain more conclusive science relative to the benefits and other impacts of such upgrades.

On behalf of the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber, our board and our members, I express our serious concern over the CVRWQCB's draft permit recommendations. We find the draft permit to overreach at the expense of the Sacramento Region's already strained economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gandola'.

Steve Gandola  
President/CEO  
Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce