

From: Russ Waymire <russwaymire@sbcglobal.net>
To: <kharder@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 10/5/2010 8:44 PM
Subject: My letter requesting stricter sewage pollution regulations

October 5, 2010

Ms. Katherine Hart, Chair

c/o Kathleen Harder

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Sacramento Office
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Via email: <mailto:kharder@waterboards.ca.gov> kharder@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hart:

On behalf of Waymire Family Farms, I am submitting this letter as a concerned farmer and resident South of the Delta, a water user downstream from the sewage dumped into our water source. It's a sickening thought. In our business world we are required to update with B.A.C.T., Best Available Current Technologies, this is a requirement to comply with clean air laws and clean water laws. With Higher quality sewage treatment technologies, like tertiary, shouldn't tertiary treatment be required rather than dump polluted sewage water into the drinking water source for 25 million people ?

I strongly urge the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to approve the Tentative Order to require Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) to implement advanced treatment of their wastewater. Remember BACT, Best Available Current Technologies are available and should be mandatory to Clean up the sewage water before it is dumped into the fresh water sources for fish and people.

As you know, the SRCSD is the largest discharger of wastewater into the Delta. It is also one of the few remaining dischargers in the region that has yet to upgrade to advanced treatment technologies. This is not just a Sacramento issue. This permit is critical to the health of the Delta ecosystem. This permit is also a vital issue for 25 million people downstream who deserve a clean and safe water source. Many residential water districts may not have the proper water filtration facilities to filter out all the toxic pollutants contained in sewage water and Urban runoff currently permitted to be dumped into the Bay-Delta water system. Water that passes through the Delta is used by more than 25 million Californians south of the Delta.

Maintaining a high-quality water source supply is fundamental for sound water management for the Delta ecosystem, high quality water for farms and people to drink. The California Department of Public Health has relayed to you its well-reasoned concerns about the untreated pathogens that are presently contained in the discharge from this facility. Removing pathogens from this wastewater stream is a basic requirement for human health protection, both for recreational purposes in the Delta as well as for downstream drinking water uses. Downstream drinking water treatment plants rely on multiple barriers to ensure public health protection. Controlling deliberate sources of contamination is the first barrier.

The Tentative Order correctly describes the growing list of emerging science and multiple studies showing that ammonia and other pollutants have significantly altered the Delta's food web - contributing to the overall decline of the estuary's health. Regulatory agencies have taken severe action against the state and federal water projects that are downstream from this biggest source of sewage pollution discharged into the middle of the Sturgeon spawning area in the Sacramento River. Ironically while ignoring the sewage pollution contribution to poor water quality 50 miles upstream of the export pumps agencies have advocated slashing downstream water exports from the Delta in an attempt to revive fish populations upstream. It's

become clear though that the only way to make long-term improvements to the Delta is to address all the factors that impact the Delta ecosystem - including limiting the amounts of ammonia, nitrate and pharmaceuticals that are allowed to flow into the Delta and its waterways.

Given the growing body of evidence that current ammonia discharge levels are having a detrimental effect on the Delta ecosystem, we strongly urge the Regional Board not to adopt the interim ammonia limits in the Tentative Order that would allow a significant increase in ammonia loading over the next ten years. Instead, the Regional Board should approve interim ammonia limits prohibiting any increase in concentration or loading over current levels.

Organizations, public agencies and leaders throughout the state have been working diligently towards a comprehensive solution to the overall Delta crisis. Reducing ammonia, nitrate, and pathogens in the Delta is critical to that effort, which is why it is essential that your Board adopt the Tentative Order with more stringent interim ammonia limits.

Thank you for your considering this **SERIOUS THREAT** to the health of the Delta and people.

Sincerely,

Russell Waymire

Waymire Family Farms

P.O. Box 1061

Hanford, Ca. 93232