

June 25, 2015

Ms. Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Central Valley Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6289
Pamela.Creedon@waterboards.ca.gov

Mr. Patrick Pulupa, Advisory Counsel
State Water Board, Office of Chief Counsel
Post Office Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100
Patrick.Pulupa@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Creedon and Mr. Pulupa:

The Rio Bravo community of Northeast Bakersfield is an adjacent neighbor to Valley Water Management Company's Race Track Hill Facility.

Approximately a year ago, the Rio Bravo community was notified by the City of Bakersfield that the water supply to the designated "Open Area"- "Green Space" along with Common and Recreation areas in our community would be suspended. This was due to the severe drought and low flow of the main water supply, the Kern River.

The community met with the water agency and worked through a continuation of a supply of water. A part of the conversation was the fact that other water supplies would need to be developed.

A secondary water supply was initially developed with a small nearby private water/farming company. However, we were notified by secondary company that, due to the lower than expected river flows, they will not be able to meet our needs.

The currently designed system for water delivery will only deliver water from the two sources listed. If at some point the City of Bakersfield or Cal Water were able to find other water sources, there is no way to deliver it. Thus, our community is currently faced with the following dire problems:

1. The surrounding properties face a loss of property values resulting in a much smaller property tax base for the city of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the State of California. Current estimates show assessed valuation of two hundred sixty million (\$260,000,000).
2. Loss of jobs maintaining the recreation-open-green belt-common areas and loss of revenue for local vendors supplying the golf course create a loss of both sales and personal income taxes to local and state governments. This will also add to the more than 10% unemployment rate in Kern County.

3. Turning a current green belt, zoned "other uses," into a potential fire hazard for the community it serves.
4. Decimating a widely used recreation area utilized by community members for over 25 years.
5. Causing additional greenhouse gases and increasing the urban heat effect as the green belt and trees on 187 acres die off.

However, this week it came to our attention that a potential source of irrigation water is available from a nearby oil production facility, their produced water, which could supply the Rio Bravo community and green belts, with at least half of its irrigation needs.

We note that the Regional Water Board has proposed to issue a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to this production company, Valley Water Management Company, which would require it to cease its irrigation activities by August 15, 2015. We understand that if this requirement is imposed, many of the oil producers that supply water to Valley Water will have to shutter their oil wells because there will be no immediate place to put their produced water.

Therefore, the Rio Bravo Homeowners and surrounding communities support Valley Water's request for to remove the August 15, 2015 cessation of irrigation requirement, and permit Valley Water to continue to produce oil/water and utilize the Race Track Hill Facility so it can have the needed time to investigate proposal way to provide treated produced water for the irrigation of the Rio Bravo communities/green belt. A successful water disposal project could free up to 1,000 acre feet of water for the residents populating North East Bakersfield under our water restrictions in this fourth year of the current severe drought. Community members believe the Regional Water Board should seriously consider and approve Valley Water's request for deferral or modification of the proposed CDO.

Thank you in advance for your immediate attention and consideration.

By: 
Name: Stephen Greenfield
Entity: Montagna Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: 
Name: Mark Hall
Entity: Rio Bravo Community Association
Its: Board Member

Randy Steinert

By: _____
Name: Randy Steinert
Entity: Rio Bravo Golf Course Masters Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

[Signature]

By: _____
Name: _____
Entity: Casa Club Masters Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

Fred Wiley

By: _____
Name: Fred Wiley
Entity: Rio Vista Community Association
Its: Board Member

By: Pending at time of submission.
Name: _____
Entity: Rio Bravo Vista Estates Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: Pending at time of submission.
Name: _____
Entity: Rio Bravo Fairways Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

[Signature]

By: _____
Name: _____
Entity: Canyon Country Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

Roland F. Scholz

By: _____
Name: Roland Scholz
Entity: Hidden Lakes Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: 
Name:
Entity: Vista Del Lago Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: Pending at time of submission.
Name:
Entity: Vista Verde Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: Pending at time of submission.
Name:
Entity: Four Fairways Homeowners Association
Its: Board Member

By: 
Name: Steve Ludwig
Entity: Estates of Rio Bravo
Its: Board Member

By: 
Name: John Yu
Entity: Rio Bravo Country Club
Its: General Manager

By: 
Name: Steven Vliss
Entity: Highpointe Communities, Inc.
Its: President