

PCC

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive. Ste. 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Ammonia and other Nitrates

Honorable Chairman, Board Members and Staff

Thank you for this opportunity to comment which I will hold to but three areas of concern. Obviously, I will not recommend Hyacinth etc. as mitigating measures.

First, is the problem that occurred with theft of anhydrous ammonia from farms by operators of meth labs. Any decent farmer will be thrifty in its use and not desirous to feed weeds or incur unnecessary costs. The product was stolen and the valves usually left open to spill. As this theft has decreased due to limiting of Sudafed, there has resulted in a limiting of theft and increase in importation of meth. Should the border actually be sealed and once again manufacture of meth be a local problem, then security measures should be changed from standby to active. Having these measures prepared is wise.

There should be serious thinning of forest litter, brush, and infested trees. This impacts the availability of clean water to dilute what contaminated water there is downstream. Also, the retardant that is used in suppression efforts has a fertilizer base which promotes aquatic growth beyond limits.

In the Midwest in order to preserve the Ogallala aquifer, poplar trees were used at target points, such as dairy lagoons, to take up the contaminants which would be harvested and converted to flooring after 5 years. You should check to see if this was successful, both economically and environmentally. If beneficial, use of trees such as poplar, or even, perhaps, eucalyptus, may be desirable not only on farm operations, but also as nurse crops for an installed riparian zone on the San Joaquin. The Restoration Program for this river is failing to consider shading as necessary to salmon benefit and bank installation a benefit to lessen adjacent crop drowning.

Sincerely,



Dennis Fox

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