



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Katherine Hart, Chair



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
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SUBJECT: Change to Notice Regarding the Delta Mercury Control Program

In November 2011, you received a letter that described requirements for the Delta Mercury Control Program. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition is not required to participate in the Delta Mercury Control Program.

The Delta Mercury Control Program assigns requirements for irrigated agriculture and managed wetlands only to those land uses within the legal Delta boundary and the Yolo Bypass. We recognize that no properties enrolled in the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition are within the legal Delta. A map in the first chapter of the Delta TMDL for Methylmercury Staff Report showed an incorrect southern boundary of the Delta. Maps and descriptions of the extent of the Delta Mercury Control Program in the actual regulations that are contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) are correct.

Even though they are not required to do so, I encourage owners and managers of irrigated agricultural lands and managed wetlands upstream of the legal Delta and Yolo Bypass to participate in Methylmercury Control Studies that will be conducted in the Delta during the next seven years. The lower Sacramento, Mokelumne, Cosumnes, and San Joaquin Rivers are impaired due to mercury and will be subject to future mercury control programs. The Basin Plan states that entities that participate in the Delta Control Studies will be exempt from conducting equivalent upstream Control Studies that may be required by future mercury control programs.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Janis Cooke, jcooke@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 464-4672, or Patrick Morris, pmorris@waterboards.ca.gov, (916) 464-4621.

Kenneth D. Landau
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Cc: Mike Johnson, Technical Program Manager, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition