SAN FRANCISCO BAYKEEPER

April 12, 2010

Attn: Jan O'Hara
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Sent via electronic mail: johara@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Proposed Basin Plan Amendment for the Addition of Surface Water Bodies and Beneficial Uses

Dear Regional Board Members and Staff:

On behalf of San Francisco Baykeeper and our 1,500 members, please accept the following comments on the proposed Basin Plan Amendment calling for the addition of surface water bodies and beneficial uses to Chapter 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan). We commend Regional Board staff for considering the beneficial uses of numerous water bodies listed in the Basin Plan that lack designations, and identifying the beneficial uses of many additional previously unlisted water bodies. While long overdue, this proposed Basin Plan amendment is the first step in protecting these water bodies from further degradation.[1]

We hope that listing of these bodies will result in the collection of water quality data, which is the next reasonable step in determining whether remedial actions are required to maintain compliance with Water Quality Objectives, specified in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan.[2] Since the need to address the issue of unlisted and undesignated water bodies within Region 2 has gone on for nearly a decade we hope this action leads not only to the recognition of sensitive water bodies of the state within the Basin Plan but also to actions surrounding monitoring, compliance determination and remedial actions, if necessary. In the absence of reliable data for the majority of water bodies listed under the proposed amendment it may be assumed that all un-monitored bodies fail to achieve the specified objectives, thus requiring the development of a program of implementation for achieving these objectives.

Once again, we thank you for your hard work in strengthening the Basin Plan through the recognition of these water bodies and the designation of beneficial uses. We look forward to learning more at the public hearings scheduled for May 12 and June 9, 2010 to understand how the Regional Board will ensure these water bodies do not undergo further degradation.

[1] California Water Code §13241
[2] California Water Code §13242

785 Market Street, Suite 850
San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel (415) 856-0444
Fax (415) 856-0443

Sincerely,

Ian Wren, Staff Scientist

San Francisco Baykeeper