



September 19, 2008

Ms. Holly Grover
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Subject: Development of a Drinking Water Policy for the Central Valley

Dear Ms. Grover:

The eleven members of California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) have a long-standing interest in the development of a Drinking Water Policy for surface waters of the Central Valley. The CUWA member agencies rely on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Sacramento and American rivers, and tributaries to the San Joaquin River as sources of drinking water supplies. Protection of drinking water quality in the Delta watershed is vitally important today, and will become even more critical as the population of the watershed increases. Development of the Drinking Water Policy Basin Plan amendment will improve existing policies for protecting municipal and domestic supply beneficial uses.

Delta water contains high concentrations of organic carbon, bromide, salinity, and nutrients. Our members have made and are continuing to make significant investments to upgrade their water treatment plants to address these challenges. However, drinking water regulations are expected to become even more stringent in the future and more contaminants are likely to be regulated. We need an effective and workable policy to protect the drinking water beneficial use and provide the first barrier of protection as part of a multiple barrier approach to ensure reliably safe drinking water supplies.

CUWA has reviewed the public scoping meeting staff report, and we support the proposed project alternatives. We remain committed to working with the Regional Board and the stakeholders in the watershed to conduct the technical studies needed to support the development of the drinking water policy Basin Plan amendment.

We are pleased that the Regional Board has taken the important step of soliciting public input on the scope of the project alternatives and we appreciate your continued commitment to this process.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Archibald