

To date WaterBoard staff have received over 300 letters and e-mails containing the following message

July 13, 2007
John Muller
Chairman
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board
c/o Dale Bowyer and Shin-Roei Lee
1515 Clay Street
Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Muller

There is no doubt that trash and plastic debris pollution is a serious water quality problem in the Bay and its creeks. The Water Board's own study found that, on average, there are three pieces of trash along every foot of stream and creek leading to the Bay.

Like other regulated pollutants, trash and plastic debris are hazards with serious impacts to Bay wildlife. Plastics release contaminants into the water, poison animals that mistake it for food, and can entangle animals.

Reducing trash from our waterways will take multiple approaches. Including strong trash limits in the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP), issued to cities and counties to regulate stormwater discharge, is an essential step to control this problem.

We all have an individual responsibility to recycle and prevent litter. Bay Area cities and counties must take more responsibility for preventing trash from getting into the Bay. If Los Angeles can do it, we can do it here, too.

Please ensure that trash provisions in the upcoming MRP require measurable reductions in trash discharge, specify enforceable measures and timelines for implementation, and require cities and counties to make their trash data accessible to the public.

I care about the health of the Bay, and preventing trash pollution is a priority for me. The Board must not ignore this problem. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Michael Wollman

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