



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, California 92260
(760) 346-7491 • Fax (760) 341-6820
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 24, 2010

Alexandria B. Boehm, Ph.D.
158 Charles Marx Way
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Telephone: (650) 248-1005
Email: aboehm@stanford.edu

Dear Dr. Boehm:

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF A STAFF REPORT IN SUPPORT OF A BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT WASTEWATER DISCHARGES FROM SEPTIC TANK SUB-SURFACE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Enclosed for your information and review, please find:

1. The Staff Report for a proposed amendment to the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) to conditionally prohibit wastewater discharges from subsurface disposal systems in high density areas in the Town of Yucca Valley. The Staff Report relies on a study by the U.S. Geological Survey entitled "Evaluation of the Source and Transport of High Nitrate Concentrations in Ground Water, Warren Subbasin, California", Water Resources Investigation Report 03-4009, 2003 (Appendix A of Staff Report). The study concludes that high nitrate levels in Yucca Valley ground water result from septic system wastewater discharges;
2. The proposed Basin Plan amendment; and
3. A revised request for scientific peer review. The original request, dated June 27, 2010, was revised on pages 2 and 5, with revisions denoted by underlined, bold, and italicized font. Page 2 was revised to add clarity and accuracy, and page 5 was revised to provide additional information.

California Environmental Protection Agency

August 24, 2010

The conditional prohibition is scheduled to go before the Regional Water Board for consideration of adoption in late 2010. To meet this schedule, we respectfully request that you complete your review and provide comments (if any) within 45 days of receipt of the subject documents. Please be aware that your review must:

- Follow the guidance provided in the revised request for external peer review letter; and
- Address the topics listed in the revised request for external review, as your expertise allows, and in the order given.

Should you have questions regarding the above, or during your review, please contact Jon Rokke at (760) 776-8959, or me at (760) 776-8982. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joan Stormo PG, CHG
Senior Engineering Geologist
Colorado River Basin
Regional Water Quality Control Board

JR/tab

Enclosure: As noted above

cc: w/o encl:

Gerald Bowes, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality
Tom Vandenberg, SWRCB, Office of the Chief Counsel

File: BP YV Prohibition



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James R. Hunt, Ph.D.
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of California, Berkeley
625 Davis Hall, MC 1710
Berkeley, CA 94720-1710
Telephone: (510) 642-0948
Email: hunt@ce.berkeley.edu

Dear Dr. Hunt:

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF A STAFF REPORT IN SUPPORT OF A BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT WASTEWATER DISCHARGES FROM SEPTIC TANK SUB-SURFACE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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