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California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

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06/21/06 BMtg Item Chlorine Policy Deadline: June 5, 2006

June 5, 2006

Song Her, Clerk of the Board State Water Resources Control Board Executive Office 1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: CCEEB Comments on Proposed April 2006 Total Residual Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants

Dear Members of the Board:

Upon review of the proposed changes CCEEB has the following recommendations:

- The Policy should only be applicable to facilities/processes that actually use chlorine by adding it in their operations. As it currently reads there is a discrepancy between the Policy Applicability and Part II of the Policy. CCEEB believes the Policy Applicability section should be amended to be consistent with Part II.
- CCEEB understands small line replacements for repairs, relocations and tie-ins often involve one time short duration discharge of relatively small volume (\leq 5,000 gals) municipally supplied water from hydrostatic testing. RWQCBs, like the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and Central Valley, allow the discharging of these volumes under waiver, without the need of any analysis prior to discharge. What will the proposed Policy do with the analysis waiver provisions that various RWQCBs currently have? CCEEB suggests an analysis waiver provision for discharges like these resulting from low volume (\leq 5,000 gals) hydrostatic tests.
 - The Polley inappropriately defines the continuous discharger category, failing to recognize large volume infrequent discharges as intermittent. By amending the above stated discrepancy, the cost and efficacy burdens brought about by continuous monitoring requirements can be avoided. A more practical approach to base the definition of intermittent discharge on is an annual basis rather than a daily basis. As such, the Policy would cover both daily discharges of short

duration, and infrequent discharges of a longer duration. An alternative to the annual base approach would be to set a volume per year approach.

• The current 15 minute grab sample is burdensome and unnecessary for discharges such as hydrotest waters. Certain discharges may only occur every few years, but may be several days long. The difficulty of a grab sample every fifteen minutes is obvious—and particularly unnecessary when no chlorine has been added to the discharge. An alternative approach would be to require three discrete samples, taken at 30-minute intervals for the first hour and a half of discharge during each intermittent period of chlorination.

• The Policy should state that monitoring for temporary intermittent discharges, such as hydrostatic testing, construction dewatering, well development, water line flushing, handling of water main ruptures, and other water system-related events are not required by this policy.

SWRCB should insure that cost-effective field methodology is available to provide timely and reliable results at the levels proposed by the Policy. We are concerned that no "field-friendly testing methodology" exists for 1 hour and 4 hour averages, rather most tests typically take approximately 4 days to get results particularly with grab samples.

• To our knowledge there are no commercially available on-line chlorine analyzers that will reliably achieve the performance standards (detection limits and sampling frequency) required by the Policy. This is of particular concern for dischargers of seawater because the saltwater matrix provides additional interference that makes accurate, low-level quantification impossible.

 Address situations where the QRL is greater than the exposure limit. Allow tests with higher QRLs and detection limits, especially when the assimilative capacity of the waterbody allows the chlorine to be reduced rapidly. To avoid exceedances caused by analytical noise, exceedances should be determined based on the site-specific QRL, not a vendor's detection limit. Allow the use of currently available online instrumentation with a longer analysis cycle.

• SWRCB should include explicit language in the TRC Policy and SED that specifically states that it is technologically infeasible for potable water discharges to comply with the TRC Policy numeric effluent limits as authorized under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 40, Section 122.44(k), revised July 1, 2004. CCEEB recommends that the SWRCB instead establish a conditional

authorization or other exclusion in the TRC Policy that allows potable water discharges to continue to be regulated under MS4 Permits or RWQCB General Permits that require the implementation of BMPs and/or best available technology economically achievable (BAT) based numeric effluent limits to reduce the discharge of total residual chlorine to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

CCEEB asks that you please consider making these additions to the final proposal. We are happy to continue working with the Board during the adoption process. If you have any questions please call at (916) 444.7337.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lucas

ce.: Vie Weisser, CCEEB John Grattan, CCEEB Jackson Gualco, CCEEB

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