January 30, 2006

Selcia Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Office
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on revision to federal clean water act section 303d
list of water quality limited segments in California

I am commenting on behalf of the Grassland Basin Drainers who have implemented a
selenium control program for the Grassland Drainage Area. The Grassland Drainage Area
has been intimately involved in the selenium issue since the discovery of selenium in the
Kesterson Reservoir in the mid 1980's. Water from the Grassland Drainage area never
was discharged into Kesterson Reservoir but historically discharged into the Grassland
wetlands and into the San Joaquin River. When selenium was found at Kesterson
Reservoir a process began where regulations were placed on the discharge of selenium
from the Grassland Drainage Area. Those regulations resulted in waste discharge
requirements in 1998 and revised in 2001 (Waste Discharge Requirements 98-171 and
5-01-234), which placed limits on the amount of selenium that can be discharge to the
wetlands channels and the San Joaquin River. A significant monitoring program is part
of these permits and the results of that monitoring needs to be considered in the
revision to the 303(d) listings. These results are available on the regional board web
Review of the data will clearly indicate that there is no need to add Grassland Marshes,
Salt Slough (upstream of the confluence of the San Joaquin River) or the San Joaquin
River (Merced River to the Tuolumne River) for selenium. The data from the Grassland
Bypass project will indicate that water quality objectives for selenium at these location
have been met for all practicality 100% of the time.

Very truly yours,

Joseph C. McGahan
Drainage Coordinator, Grassland Basin Drainers