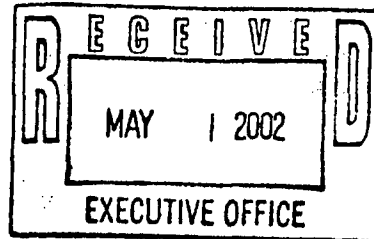


AB 982 PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

April 15, 2002



Arthur G. Baggett, Chair
Members of the State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Chairman Baggett & Members of the Board:

As you know, the Public Advisory Group (PAG) established under AB 982 (Ducheny) has been diligently and actively working to provide recommendations to the State Board on ways to improve California's TMDL program. During our meetings this year, we have been receiving updates from State Board staff on the efforts to finalize the 2002 "Revision of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments" (the "2002 303(d) List").

At the April 8, 2002 PAG meeting, the issue of whether the State Board would accept "new information" or data concerning potentially impaired water segments was vigorously discussed. Specifically in question was what the State Board's policy would be in accepting such information at the workshops scheduled for late May on the 2002 303(d) List. It was noted at that meeting that several Regional Boards finalized their own recommendations and forwarded them to the State Board *without* any opportunity for public comment or for the public to provide additional information to be considered by the Regional Boards.

As you know, the diverse interests represented on the PAG makes reaching consensus on issues challenging. However, on this issue, the PAG easily reached consensus that it is imperative for interested stakeholders to have ample opportunity to comment on *all* aspects of the proposed 2002 303(d) List, including providing relevant water quality information that may not have been considered by individual Regional Boards during their consideration and recommendation process.

As such, we as Co-Chairs of the PAG have been asked to communicate to you the following consensus position of the PAG:

"The members of the PAG believe that applicable law and good policy require the State Board to consider all relevant information in making decisions with respect to the 2002 Section 303(d) List of impaired waters. For that reason, the PAG strongly urges the State Board to accept and reasonably consider such information that may be presented to the State Board on or before the public hearings scheduled in May 2002."

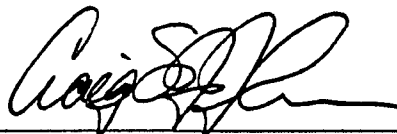
Chairman Arthur G. Baggett & Members
State Water Resources Control Board
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The members of the PAG look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff in seeking to develop appropriate policies for California's TMDL program. Thank you for your attention to this matter and to our concerns.

Very truly yours,



Linda Sheehan, Co-Chair
The Ocean Conservancy



Craig S.J. Johns, Co-Chair
California Resource Strategies