



# CVCWA Central Valley Clean Water Association

Representing Over Forty Wastewater Agencies

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JACQUE McCALL – SECRETARY, VACAVILLE      MICHAEL BERKLICH – TREASURER, TURLOCK

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March 14, 2006

Mr. Joe Karkoski, Chief  
Pesticide TMDL Unit  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

RE:    **COMMENTS ON CEQA SCOPING MEETING**  
**WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, SAC AND SAN JOAQUIN BASINS**  
**CONTROL OF PESTICIDES**

Dear Mr. Karkoski:

The Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) submits the following comments in response to the Regional Water Board's *Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop on the Development of Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan) to Control the Discharge of Pesticides*. We have reviewed the Regional Board's presentation materials and commend the Regional Board on the broad scope of the proposed Basin Plan Amendment (BPA).

CVCWA is an association of local public agencies providing wastewater collection, treatment and water recycling services throughout the Central Valley region. While pesticides are not usually perceived as a wastewater issue, the detection of pesticides in wastewater effluent can create the imposition of stringent permit requirements. Thus, CVCWA's members may be directly impacted by the adoption of water quality objectives for pesticides. Because of this potential impact, CVCWA provides the following comments to the Regional Water Board for consideration as the Board moves forward with a BPA for pesticides.

First, CVCWA requests that the Regional Water Board involve CVCWA as a stakeholder in this process. As mentioned above, CVCWA's members receive water quality based effluent limits based on adopted water quality objectives. Thus, CVCWA is interested in the adoption of new water quality objectives in general, and pesticides in

## CEQA SCOPING COMMENTS

MARCH 17, 2006

PAGE 2

particular. Especially since CVCWA has little control over the input of pesticides into the wastewater system and therefore may be obligated to meet pesticide limits through advanced treatment processes.

Second, CVCWA requests that the Regional Board comply with the intent and the specific requirements of the California Water Code when adopting water quality objectives. In other words, the specific requirements for adopting water quality objectives (Ca. Water Code §§13241-13242) must be applied consistently with the California Legislature's intent, which is to balance the needs of maintaining high quality water against all of the demands being placed on the water. (Ca. Water Code, § 13000.) Most importantly, the Regional Board must balance the economic considerations against the environmental impacts associated with achieving the objective.

Third, CVCWA understands that the Regional Board may consider adopting a narrative water quality objective for sediments as part of the BPA. In CVCWA's experience, the adoption and application of narrative water quality objectives often overlook the requirements contained in Water Code sections 13241 and 13242. Sections 13241 and 13242 apply to the adoption of any water quality objective, regardless of the nature of the objective. Therefore, the Regional Board must consider all of the factors outlined in Water Code section 13241 when adopting a narrative objective, and must prepare a program of implementation as required by Water Code section 13242. Furthermore, the Regional Board must carefully articulate how the Regional Board intends to interpret the narrative objective and consider the factors of Water Code section 13241 in relationship to the interpretation. CVCWA and others have been critical in the past of the Regional Board interpreting narrative water quality objectives as a way to avoid the consideration of economics, water quality conditions that can be reasonably achieved and the other factors contained in Water Code section 13231.

Overall, CVCWA commends the Regional Board for considering the adoption of numeric water quality objectives for pesticides instead of continuing to rely solely on the narrative objectives currently contained in the Basin Plan. CVCWA continues to encourage the development of specific numeric objectives in accordance with the sound policy provisions contained in the California Water Code prior to the imposition of permit requirements. Thank you for your consideration. Also, would you please confirm receipt of this letter by email to [cvcwa@placer.ca.gov](mailto:cvcwa@placer.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Warren Tellefson  
Executive Officer

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