



# CVCWA

## CENTRAL VALLEY CLEAN WATER ASSOCIATION

Formerly the Central Valley Wastewater Manager's Association

*Representing Over Forty Wastewater Agencies*

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December 22, 2004

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Attn: Robert Schneider, Chairman of the Board

RE: **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FORUM COMMENTS, DECEMBER 3, 2004**  
**AGRICULTURAL WATER USE STUDY**

Dear Chairman Schneider,

At your December 3, 2004 meeting you asked me to summarize in writing the Central Valley Clean Water Association's comments that I presented during the Public Forum portion of that meeting. The following is a summary the Agricultural Water Use Study portion of those comments.

One of the key issues for Delta water quality is salinity. We request that your Board carefully consider the results of the Agricultural Water Use Study conducted by the University of California at Davis. This study was ordered by your Board and submitted to your staff in July of this year. Dr. Stephen Grattan and his colleagues at UC Davis have outlined their recommended approach to assess and protect downstream agricultural uses of Putah Creek from impacts due to salinity. These researchers have updated the approach used by Ayers and Westcot to interactively analyze how the electrical conductivity of a given irrigation water would affect yield for specific crops. Ayers and Westcot stressed that their guidelines are overly restrictive in areas where rainfall is effective in meeting all or part of the leaching requirement. The UCD model allows for the consideration of local rainfall into the EC calculations. Though the report focuses on site-specific conditions for the Davis area, the model can be applied equally well anywhere.

We believe the study will be of great value to the agricultural community, regulators, and water agencies. Given the importance of this report to the regulation of POTWs to ensure protection of the agricultural irrigation beneficial use, we ask that your Board schedule a

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workshop to hear from your staff, the UC researchers, and interested persons to review the results of the Ag Use Study.

If you have any questions feel free to call (530) 886-4911 at any time.

Sincerely,

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Warren Tellefson  
Executive Officer

Cc: Thomas Pinkos, Executive Officer, RWQCB

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