



CVCWA

CENTRAL VALLEY CLEAN WATER ASSOCIATION

Formerly the Central Valley Wastewater Manager's Association

Representing Over Forty Wastewater Agencies

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July 18, 2005

Robert Schneider, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

SUBJECT: CENTRAL VALLEY SALT AND NITRATE ISSUES

Dear Chairman Schneider:

During the June 23, 2005 meeting of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Vice Chair Dr. Karl Longley raised the issue of water quality impacts from salt and nitrate. Dr. Longley indicated that he sees a need for interested parties to come together to develop a solution to these issues appropriate to the site-specific circumstances of the Central Valley.

The Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) has also identified the need for a strategy to address salts on a holistic basis that considers water quality standards, all sources and the interrelationship of water supply and water quality. CVCWA agrees that the issue of salt management is critical. Given the importance of the issue, CVCWA has asked the State Water Resources Control Board to review salt issues comprehensively in the context of its approach to regulation of food processors. CVCWA intends to participate actively in the SWRCB's effort. As we understand Dr. Longley's recommendation, the first step toward developing a solution would be for Regional Board staff to develop a clear problem statement for presentation to the Board at a future meeting date. Once that has occurred, interested parties could begin to meet to discuss options for dealing with salts and nitrates in groundwater and surface water.

CENTRAL VALLEY SALT AND NITRATE ISSUES

PAGE 2

July 18, 2005

CVCWA urges the Central Valley Regional Board to coordinate its efforts to address salts with the program being undertaken by the SWRCB. A joint approach would be the best use of limited resources and avoid the possibility of inconsistent outcomes that might result from two parallel programs. In any event, CVCWA would like to participate as an interested party in any activity by the Regional Board on this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you or Regional Board staff regarding our involvement.

Sincerely,

Warren Tellefson
Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Karl Longley
Tom Pinkos, Executive Officer
Daniel Merkley, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board
CVCWA Board

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