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January 24, 2012

Dear Central Coast Water Board;

The Salinas Valley Builders Exchange representing a cross section of the construction industry respectfully asks that you postpone your vote on the City of Salinas storm water permit until the CCWB can facilitate an adequate study on the cost and effects of its implementation.

After reviewing the massive amount of verbiage in the proposed permit we find that many issues arise. This permit, as written will effectively cease all infill and redevelopment projects within the City limits. It will also promote city decay because it will make basic maintenance on existing commercial properties along with redevelopment too onerous and expensive to consider.

While functioning in the worst recession ever recorded, we must be mindful about the economic impacts of every regulation that is proposed. We also must take into consideration the financial viability of the cities we impose these regulations on. Even Governor Brown has stipulated that we need to freeze regulations that have a negative impact on our economy, giving it time to recover.


The costs associated with the implementation of the proposed permit would further strain an already suffering city, giving the City only one choice but to increase fees and taxes. As tax payers of the City of Salinas we object to these types of increases. We also feel that we would be better served by helping the City better implement the current permit.

We have consulted with several associates on recent projects within the City limits that would not be possible under the proposed permit requirements. We caution the Central Coast Water Board that moving too fast has the potential for disaster to our community.

The notion that costs can be recovered via fees on the construction industry is simply an unrealistic notion. A new fee on an industry that is already down 80% from 5 years ago makes no sense. Construction has always been the back bone of our nation. Our nation cannot afford to have a whole industry put out of business. We must find a balance between good stewardship and good business. We must realize that current regulations already provide superior environmental protections while allowing some leeway for constructive growth.

Vote NO on the new regulations to save our industry and our City.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Christie Cromeenes, Executive Director

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Item No. 21, Supplemental, Attachment 1
February 1-2, 2012 Board Meeting