

ITEM: 22

SUBJECT: Regional Board Enforcement and Communication Policies

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item for Regional Board evaluation and discussion of enforcement and communication policies.

BACKGROUND: Recent articles in the Sacramento Bee regarding the Hilmar Cheese Company, its waste discharges and regulatory actions by the Regional Board gave rise to a perception and/or concerns held by some observers that the Regional Board does not enforce against dischargers causing pollution. In response to this, the Regional Board met in closed session at its 27/28 January 2005 meeting to evaluate the performance of its Executive Officer and other employees relative to the operation of the Fresno Office. When the Board returned to open session, the Board Chair stated that the Regional Board expressed its confidence in the leadership of the Executive Officer, and directed staff to prepare a written report evaluating the enforcement and communications policies of the Regional Board to be discussed in open session at the March (2005) Regional Board meeting.

ISSUES: The staff report discusses the following topics:

- Enforcement policies;
- Regional Board procedures;
- Compliance and enforcement data;
- Budget and resources;
- Communications;
- Work Plan

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

17/18 March 2005

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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