

California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4011
FAX (916) 323-4529

SENATOR.SIMITIAN@SEN.CA.GOV

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/SIMITIAN

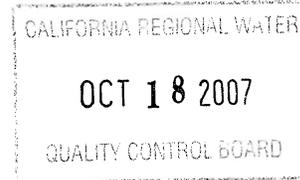
SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
160 TOWN & COUNTRY VILLAGE
PALO ALTO, CA 94301
TEL (650) 688-6384
FAX (650) 688-6370

SATELLITE OFFICE
701 OCEAN ST., ROOM 318-A
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
TEL (831) 425-0401
FAX (831) 425-5124



October 17, 2007



Mr. John Muller
Chair
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Muller and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my support for measurable reductions in trash in our creeks and the Bay as a requirement in the Water Board's pending Municipal Regional Permit (MRP).

Trash and plastic debris pollution is a serious water quality problem in the Ocean, Bay and its creeks. The Ocean Protection Council held a meeting in February 2007, at which it unanimously approved a resolution on preventing and reducing marine debris. The recommendations addressed reducing sources of plastic marine debris, increasing enforcement of anti-litter laws, expanding watershed-based cleanups, increasing the availability of receptacles for recycling and for disposal of cigarette butts, removing derelict fishing gear, banning toxic plastic packaging, and related matters. The Water Board's own study found that, on average, there are three pieces of trash along every foot of stream and creek leading to the Bay.

Because much of the trash in our water is plastic, it lasts for years, entangling and drowning birds, marine mammals and sea life.

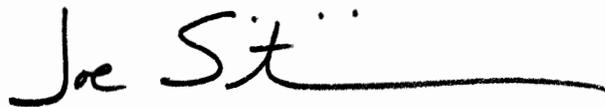
Please ensure that trash provisions in the upcoming MRP require measurable reductions in trash discharge, specify enforceable measures and timelines for

implementation, and require cities and counties to make their trash data accessible to the public.

Preventing trash pollution is an important priority. We need to keep our coastline clean and protect marine life. I encourage the Board to take this measurable step to address the issue of trash plaguing our waters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Simitian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District