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October 8, 2010

Ms. Katherine Hart, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Draft NPDES Permit for Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Dear Ms. Hart:

I write you today regarding the renewed permit request for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD).

The SRCSD is currently awaiting finalization of a renewed NPDES permit as required by the Clean Water Act. I write to express my concern with the proposed permit conditions and the impacts upon my constituents.

I am troubled by the appearance of a decision-making process on the Board's part that seems to be without technical justification. Specifically, it seems that the proposed permit conditions rely on findings that are not scientifically validated and that are precedential setting.

I appreciate that that there are complex scientific issues involved in SRCSD's permit. However, it is imperative that the integrity of the regulatory process governing all wastewater dischargers in California be consistent, fair, reasonable, protective of water quality, and - - above all else - - be based on sound, objective science. Unfortunately, the conditions proposed in this draft permit are especially disconcerting when one considers the costs associated with compliance (over \$2 billion to the Sacramento region) and the expected minimal environmental gains for the Delta. If these mandates are adopted, they will have the net effect of impairing our region's economic stability and not improve water quality.

I would deeply appreciate an opportunity for my staff to be briefed by you on the reasons behind the Board's precedential setting decisions that will not result in a net benefit to the Sacramento River or downstream users. Please contact Joan Dierkes of my office at 916-498-5600 to arrange for a mutually convenient time to meet.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress