



August 11, 2009

Ms. Betty Yee  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Triennial Review for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins

Dear Ms. Yee:

The California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments as part of the Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. CUWA requests that the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy continue to be listed as a high priority item in the Triennial Review Work Plan. CUWA has been working with a stakeholder work group and Regional Water Board staff for many years on the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy, an issue that has been previously identified as high priority in several Triennial Review Work Plans. The Central Valley Drinking Water Policy is also identified as a key element in the State and Regional Water Boards' Strategic Workplan for Activities in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and it is a commitment in the CALFED Record of Decision.

Surface waters in the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins and the Delta provide drinking water for most of the residents of California. The goal of the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy is to provide adequate protection of those supplies for residents of the Central Valley, the Bay Area, the Central Coast, and Southern California. CUWA urges the Regional Water Board to maintain the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy as a high priority issue in this Triennial Review Work Plan. While some of the technical studies have been placed on hold due to the grant stop work order, the stakeholder work group has continued to meet and make progress. We understand that in these difficult times, the Regional Water Board has to identify priorities for staff time. CUWA and Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District have been funding staff time to work on this issue for a number of years. We recently approved funding for Regional Water Board staff to continue work on this issue in FY 2009/2010.

CUWA appreciates the Regional Water Board's efforts to address high priority water quality issues in this Triennial Review. CUWA is committed to working with Regional Water Board staff and the stakeholder work group to bring a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy to the Regional Water Board by the end of 2010.

Sincerely,

Elaine Archibald  
Executive Director

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