

SAN JOSE/SILICON VALLEY BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

1313 N Milpitas Blvd #175 Milpitas Ca 95035 P.O. BOX 1345 San Jose, California 95109

Phone (408) 295-3394

Fax (408) 295-4355

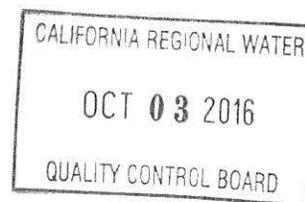
September 30, 2016

Terry Young, Ph.D.

Chair, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400

Oakland, CA 94612



Subject: Public Comments on the Tentative Order for Waste Discharge Requirements for the Upper Berryessa Creek Flood Risk Management Project

Dear Chair Young and Members of the Board:

As the President of the San Jose/Silicon Valley Branch of the NAACP, I would like to express my views on the tentative order for waste discharge requirements (WDR) related to the Upper Berryessa Creek Flood Risk Management Project (Berryessa Project), as I may not be able to attend the public hearing regarding this project. I urge the Regional Board to authorize the implementation of the Berryessa Project WITHOUT the proposed WDR requirements, for the reasons described in this letter.

The Berryessa project will, once constructed, ensure flood protection for homes, schools, businesses, and transportation infrastructure, including the new BART Silicon Valley Milpitas Station and rail lines, from a 100-year flood event. This protection will prevent over \$528 million in potential flood damages, and ensure that Silicon Valley's regionally-significant and long-awaited BART extension project can open on time and operate without interruption, providing crucial transit services to residents reliant on public transportation, and expanding job and educational opportunities for diverse and low income residents, both locally and regionally, into locations not previously accessible.

Adoption of the tentative order could, at a minimum, result in significant delays for the Berryessa Project and the flood protection it would provide, leading to long-term waste of public funds and fundamental delays in transit operations and, at worst, result in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the project's construction lead) canceling or terminating the Berryessa Project. This would leave not just residents, schools, businesses and the new BART station and rail lines vulnerable to flood damages, but could also put the BART station out of service during times of flooding, significantly impacting this crucial Silicon Valley transportation network and creating a devastating impact on diverse, underserved, low-income residents or commuters, who live, work in, or commute through this flood-prone area and rely on public transportation services such as BART.

Executive Officers: Rev. Jethroe Moore II, **President;** Bob Nunez, **1st Vice President;**

Hellen Sims, **2nd Vice President;** Antonio Walker, **Secretary;** Cynthia Joseph, **Treasurer;**

Executive Committee: Mulageta Habtegabriel, Nebi Alemu, James Staten, Anna Griffin, Tonya Patterson, Roxana Marachi, Tom Patterson, Bobbi Kawazoe,

General Counsel: Sheeva J. Ghassemi-Vanni, Esq.

Website: <http://www.sanjosenaacp.org>

Email: sjnaacp@sanjosenaacp.org

SAN JOSE/SILICON VALLEY BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

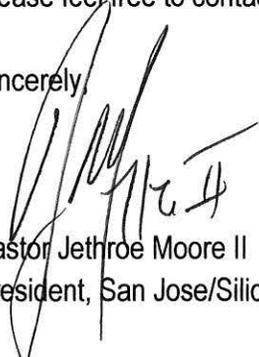
1313 N Milpitas Blvd #175 Milpitas Ca 95035 P.O. BOX 1345 San Jose, California 95109

Phone (408) 295-3394 Fax (408) 295-4355

For these reasons, the San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP urges the Regional Board to authorize the implementation of this project without the WDR requirements, and allow the Berryessa Project to proceed, which will benefit not just our local cities and disadvantaged communities, but the region as a whole.

Please feel free to contact me at (408) 515-1114 moore2j@att.net, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Pastor Jethroe Moore II
President, San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP

Executive Officers: Rev. Jethroe Moore II, **President;** Bob Nunez, **1st Vice President;**
Hellen Sims, **2nd Vice President;** Antonio Walker, **Secretary;** Cynthia Joseph, **Treasurer;**
Executive Committee: Mulageta Habtegabriel, Nebi Alemu, James Staten, Anna Griffin, Tonya Patterson, Roxana
Marachi, Tom Patterson, Bobbi Kawazoe,
General Counsel: Sheeva J. Ghassemi-Vanni, Esq.
Website: <http://www.sanjosenaacp.org>

Email: sjnaacp@sanjosenaacp.org