



October 4, 2016

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Chair, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland CA 94612

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

Dear Chair Young and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, 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 on this project. In short, 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 critical transportation infrastructure, including the new BART Silicon Valley Milpitas Station, from a 100-year flood event. This protection will prevent over \$528 million in potential flood damages, and ensure that our businesses—which power our local economy—and that Silicon Valley’s regionally-significant and long-awaited BART extension network can open on time and operate without interruption.

Adoption of the tentative order could, at a minimum, result in significant delays for the project and the flood protection it would provide, leading to long-term waste of public funds 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 also could put the BART station out of service during times of flooding, significantly impacting this crucial Silicon Valley transportation network.

For these reasons, I urge 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 businesses and economy, but Silicon Valley and the region as a whole.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Mahood  
President & CEO