

March 19, 2012

Mr. John Muller, Chair  
Attn: Mr. Dale Bowyer - [dbowyer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbowyer@waterboards.ca.gov)  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

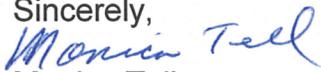
Dear Mr. Muller:

I am writing because of a new report by Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association titled *Trash Load Reduction Tracking Method* being considered by your agency. This report has a good goal which is to provide guidance on how to reduce litter and trash in our streets and drainage systems. It is confusing because only certain types of trash are targeted for prohibition. If a restaurant provides food "to-go," it must provide containers to hold the food. Banning one container type would not eliminate litter, it would only change the type of litter.

As the Chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Alameda County, I am concerned for potential economic impact of these recommendations, specifically the cost to the over 18,000 Hispanic small businesses that would be forced to use higher priced replacement packaging.

I am troubled that government could suggest yet another regulatory burden on our small business community that seems to have little, if any benefit to the environment or the economy. I believe you should reject any policy that proposes to "ban" only certain types of trash. I look forward to engaging in this effort to ensure that the views of my organization, its members, and the business community are heard.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns.

Sincerely,  
  
Monica Tell  
Chair  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Alameda County