

---

## State Water Resources Control Board

7/14/2014

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Victoria A. Whitney, Deputy Director  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Whitney:

### **EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANS FOR TRASH**

This letter responds to the attached March 10, 2014 request for external scientific peer review for the subject noted above. The review process is described below. All steps were conducted in confidence. Reviewers' identities were not disclosed.

To begin the process for selecting reviewers, I contacted the University of California, Berkeley (University) and requested recommendations for candidates considered qualified to perform the assignment. The University was provided with the March 10, 2014 request letter to me, and attachments, and no additional material was asked for, nor forwarded to augment the request. This service by the University includes interviews of each promising candidate and is supported through an Interagency Agreement co-signed by Cal/EPA and the University.

Each candidate who was both interested and available for the review period was asked to complete a Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure form and send it to me for review, with Curriculum Vitae. The cover letter for the COI form describes the context for COI concerns that must be taken into consideration when completing the form. "As noted, staff will use this information to evaluate whether a reasonable member of the public would have a serious concern about [the candidate's] ability to provide a neutral and objective review of the work product."

In subsequent letters to candidates approved as reviewers, I provided the attached January 7, 2009 Supplement to the Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines, which, in part serves two purposes: a) it provides guidance to ensure confidentiality through the course of the external review, and, b) it notes reviewers are under no obligation to discuss their comments with third-parties after reviews have been submitted. We recommend they do not. All outside parties are provided opportunities to address a proposed regulatory action, or potential basis for such, through a well-defined rulemaking process.

Later, I sent each reviewer the material to be reviewed and a detailed cover letter to initiate the review (Copies attached).

Also attached to the cover letter was the March 10, 2014 request for reviewers to me. Its Attachment 2 was highlighted as the focus for the review. Each reviewer was asked to address each topic, as expertise allows, in the order given. Thirty days were provided for the review. I also asked reviewers to direct enquiring third-parties to me after they have submitted their reviews.

Reviewers' names, affiliations, curriculum vitae, and reviews are being sent to you now with this letter. All attachments can be electronically accessed through the bookmark icon at the left of the screen. Professor Detlef Knappe sent 12 of the references used in his review separately through email. I will email you the 12 attachments separately. The selected papers and reports present information beyond that contained in papers and reports already cited in the Draft Staff Report.

Approved reviewers are as follows:

- 1) Tamara Galloway, Ph.D.  
Professor of Exotoxicology  
College of Life & Environmental Sciences  
University of Exeter  
314 Geoffrey Pope Bldg., Stocker Road  
Exeter, EX4 4QD, UK  
  
Telephone: 011-44-1392-263436  
Facsimile: 011-440-1392-263700  
Email: [T.S.Galloway@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:T.S.Galloway@exeter.ac.uk)
  
- 2) David Barnes, Ph.D.  
Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering and Mines  
University of Alaska  
Duckering 263, 306 Tanana Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5960  
  
Telephone: (907) 474-6126  
Facsimile: (907) 474-6087  
Email: [dlbarnes@alaska.edu](mailto:dlbarnes@alaska.edu)
  
- 3) Detlef Knappe, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering  
North Carolina State University  
319 Mann Hall-E  
Campus Box 7908  
Raleigh, NC, 27695-7908  
  
Telephone: (919) 515-8791  
Facsimile: (919) 515-7908  
Email: [knappe@ncsu.edu](mailto:knappe@ncsu.edu)

If you have questions, or require clarification from the reviewers, please contact me directly.

Regards,



Gerald W. Bowes, Ph.D.  
Manager, Cal/EPA Scientific Peer Review Program  
Office of Research, Planning and Performance  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "I" Street, 16th Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 341-5567

Fax: (916) 341-5284

Email: [Gerald.Bowes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Gerald.Bowes@waterboards.ca.gov)

Attachments

- 1) March 10, 2014 Request by Victoria A. Whitney for Scientific Peer Review
- 2) Letters to Reviewers Initiating the Review
  - a) Tamara Galloway, Ph.D., University of Exeter
  - b) David Barnes, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks
  - c) Detlef Knappe, Ph.D., North Carolina State University
- 3) January 7, 2009 Supplement to Cal/EPA Peer Review Guidelines
- 4) Curriculum Vitae:
  - a) Tamara Galloway, Ph.D., University of Exeter
  - b) David Barnes, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks
  - c) Detlef Knappe, Ph.D., North Carolina State University
- 5) Reviews:
  - a) Tamara Galloway, Ph.D., University of Exeter
  - b) David Barnes, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks
  - c) Detlef Knappe, Ph.D., North Carolina State University

ec: