

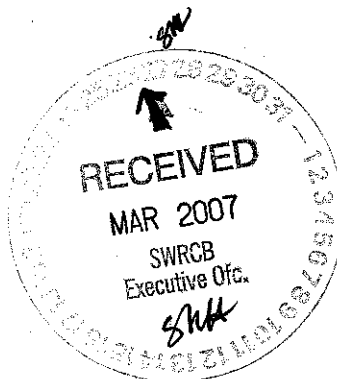
Sunkist



4/18/07 BdMtg Item
Upper Santa Clara River
Deadline: 4/4/07 noon

March 26, 2007

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Oxnard Lemon Company
Affiliate of Sunkist Growers

2001 Sunkist Circle
P.O. Box 2240
Oxnard, CA 93034
Tel: (805) 483-1173
Fax: (805) 486-0595

RE: Comment Letter - Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL

I am writing to show support for the Regional Board's revised TMDL Plan and for the State Board's staff recommendation to the State Board to adopt this proposed amendment. We have been packing lemons from Santa Paula and Fillmore in Ventura County for 23 years.

As a packer, we may only appear to be in the background of all of the technical studies, policy-making, and politics that are going on. But we are, and will be, the ones who have to live with the consequences and decisions made by others. While we benefit from the Santa Clara River, we also inevitably suffer from its degradation.

The Santa Clara River is the lifeblood of our heritage and our livelihoods. As river water quality deteriorates, we packers and our growers will become the unnecessary victims of a problem. It is time to act. The longer we wait, the more damage will be done and we already have direct experience with damage. Tree health, vitality, productiveness, and ultimately revenue to our growers will be reduced if action to reduce the high salt content in the water is not taken as soon as possible.

For these reasons, I support the staff recommendations to: (1) approve the Basin Plan amendment unanimously adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Board on August 3, 2006, Resolution No. R4-2006-016; and (2) authorize the Executive Director to submit the amendment to the Office of Administrative Law and to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I can be reached at 805-483-1173 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Samuel G. Mayhew
Samuel G. Mayhew
General Manager