



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 29
Hwy 395 at Third Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
Phone (760) 647-6595
Fax (760) 647-6377

Board of Directors
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Richard Lehman
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Executive Director
Geoffrey McQuilkin

Southern California Office
322 Culver Blvd.
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

On the Internet
www.monolake.org
www.monobasinresearch.org

March 10, 2008

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
Executive Office
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Comment Letter – proposed Recycled Water Policy

Dear Ms. Townsend:

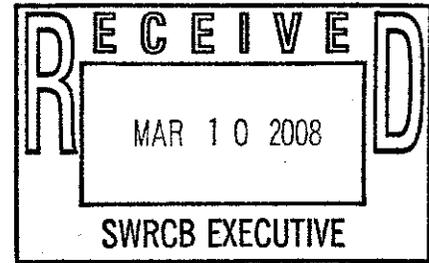
The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) is writing to provide comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Recycled Water Policy.

MLC is a non-profit citizen's group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas. Supported by 16,000 members, MLC has been active in the Mono Basin since 1978.

MLC supports the proposed Recycled Water Policy. Recycled water is a local water supply that can reduce the need for imported water and improve drought tolerance. The appropriate use of recycled water is an important efficiency tool that holds significant promise in allowing California to meet the water needs of residents and natural ecosystems, particularly in era of climate change.

Mono Lake is an outstanding example of how urban conservation efforts can create solutions for water conflicts previously seen as intractable. As you know, water diversions from the Mono Basin to Los Angeles once threatened the unique Mono Lake ecosystem and the millions of migratory and nesting birds which depend on it. The protection of Mono Lake through the State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1631 in 1994 was made practical, in large part, by water conservation in Los Angeles which has offset diversion reductions from the Mono Basin.

Given the importance of recycled water to the protection of natural water resources like Mono Lake and to the water future of California, it is important to assure that recycled water use is effectively managed. The Mono Lake Committee supports a holistic approach to groundwater protection and planning,



with the implementation of basin-wide plans for salt and nutrient management that consider all relevant sources of recharge. These plans will help insure that groundwater quality is maintained while the people of California will benefit from savings in both water (and in some cases energy) through water recycling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. McQuilkin", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Geoffrey McQuilkin
Executive Director