

commentletters - "comment letter landscape irrigation general permit"Public Workshop
Landscape Irrigation
Deadline: 6/26/08 by 12 p.m.

From: <teamatlan@sbcglobal.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Monday, June 23, 2008 5:05 PM
Subject: "comment letter landscape irrigation general permit"

Dear Mr. Wolf and Board,

While I appreciate that your focus is to administer and deploy this new permit, I feel that the purpose of the Bill, getting more people to recycle, has missed some fundamental issues.

As I stated at the workshop, we recycle @550 acre feet of municipal sewage by treating it and spray irrigating a golf course.

The treatment of this waste is very expensive when compared to simply irrigating with ground or raw water.

Currently, there are no incentives from the State to switch to recycling and at the end of our current contract we intend to switch to a cheaper water supply. There should be tax or other financial incentives to induce cities to recycle or State direct incentives for irrigators to use recycled water. A tertiary plant costs many millions. We are currently seeing many outlying communities contemplating switching to tertiary treatment as they have started to get too large for secondary storage. They simply can not afford to do so.

This is a golden opportunity that has been missed. These small cities will go with the least expensive option and it will be many years before they will be in a position to produce tertiary water. With incentives they could do it sooner.

Harsh enforcement of incidental runoff, wastewater over-flowing during a storm event, drawing down ponds prior to winter storm events and wind drift of aerosol mists off the site have stopped several users from using recycled water in my area.

It makes no sense that minute mists drifting into surrounding yards pose a health threat when a neighboring development irrigates the residential yards with the same water.

In summary, the cost of monitoring, testing, permits, chemical treatment, infrastructure improvements and the fear of non-compliance will dissuade irrigators from using recycled water and this should be addressed if the State is serious about recycling.

Thank you for taking these comments.

Sincerely,

Dominic Atlan

