

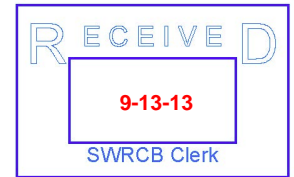
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Assembly  
California Legislature



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September 11, 2013

Hon. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Yucca Valley Groundwater Protection**

Dear Chair Marcus:

As the Assembly Member representing the Town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD), I respectfully urge the SWRCB's expedited approval of the annual Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP) for submission to the US EPA in October.

The IUP draft identifies the HDWD as an "A" priority for approximately \$130 million in loans to eliminate California's largest septic system, protect the region's groundwater, and enhance water supplies. The Legislature completed several bills to guide the remediation of nitrate-contaminated groundwater, a shared concern throughout California. This project could be one of the first to help with implementation. As with many rural California communities, the local economy remains depressed and there is real suffering among residents who struggle to find employment. Guaranteeing drinkable groundwater will be a boost to creating good jobs.

I would like to express our appreciation to you and your headquarters and regional staff members who have worked hard to assist HDWD in completing this essential task. There is compelling urgency, as you are well aware, and federal, state and local regulatory experts agree. The US EPA in 2011 found septic percolation violated drinking water safety standards for nitrates and other materials. The underlying soil is coarse, which accelerates percolation of the septic effluent. Monitoring well data shows the pollution is spreading toward ground water, which has resulted in a formal regional water board Cease & Desist Order.

The project is shovel ready, HDWD informs me, and I would be pleased to assist you and your colleagues with this important matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN NESTANDE  
Assemblymember, 42<sup>nd</sup> District

cc: Thomas Howard, SWRCB Executive Director  
Liz Haven, SWRCB Deputy Director  
Robert Perdue, CRBRWQCB Executive Officer  
Jackson R. Gualco, The Gualco Group, Inc.