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Golden State Water

June 8, 2010

Honorable Frank Mecham
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Subject: Water Resources Advisory Committee Subcommittee
Comments on the Letter to the Regional Water Quality Control
Board Regarding the Draft Agricultural Order for Irrigated Lands

Dear Chairperson Mecham:

On April 7, 2010, the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) formed an ad hoc subcommittee to review the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) draft agricultural order and supporting background materials, to review concerns raised by the agriculture community, to take into account the reports made by Agricultural Commissioner Robert Lilley to the Board of Supervisors, and to return to the WRAC with a clearer definition of the subcommittee goals.

Ad hoc subcommittee members included Mike Broadhurst (Agriculture At-Large Alternate), Joy Fitzhugh (County Farm Bureau), Annie Gillespie (Environmental At-Large Alternate), Marilee Hyman (District 3), Sue Luft (Environmental At-Large), and Lowell Zelinski (Agriculture At-Large). Member Luft served as subcommittee chair.

On June 2, 2010, the ad hoc subcommittee reported on the May 12, 2010 and July 8, 2010 RWQCB workshops, and indicated that the RWQCB proposes to renew the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Agricultural Order No. R3-2009-0050) for 18 months, until December 8, 2011, and that RWQCB staff propose no changes to the Order, except the expiration date, as part of this action. The ad hoc subcommittee and members of the WRAC reviewed the draft letter from the Board of Supervisors to the RWQCB regarding the draft Agricultural Order for irrigated lands, as part of the June 8, 2010 Board of Supervisors' meeting, and voted in favor (20-2-0) to recommend that the Board of

Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated 3/6/07

Supervisors send the letter to the RWQCB with the following additions or changes:

1. Remove the last sentence from the fifth (5th) paragraph that begins with: “For example, designating 0.5 part per billion ...”.
2. Add language that speaks in support of the 18 month time extension.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL WINN
Chairperson, Water Resources Advisory Committee

cc: SLO County Board of Supervisors
SLO County Planning Commission