



# CLEAN WATER ACTION

March 22, 2007

Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 1001 I Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor [95814]  
 P.O. Box 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Karen O'Haire Esq.  
 Office of Chief Counsel  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 1001 I Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor [95814]  
 P.O. Box 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Dear Ms. Doduc and Ms. O'Haire:

The purpose of this letter is to provide public comment regarding:  
 SWRCB/OCC File A-1824.

Only six miles separates Redlands from Colton and Rialto, yet the cleanup of the drinking water supply has been handled in two drastically different ways. In Redlands, cleanup and abatement orders were issued to the corporate polluter, Lockheed Martin, in the same year the perchlorate was discovered. On the other hand, the three most responsible corporate polluters in Rialto and Colton—Goodrich Corp., Black & Decker, and PyroSpectacular—have not had any cleanup and abatement order enforced in the ten years since the discovery of perchlorate in Rialto and Colton's drinking water supply.

The lack of rocket fuel cleanup in Rialto and Colton is indisputably an environmental racism issue. In Redlands, 56% of the household's income ranges from \$50,000-\$200,000. In contrast, 28% of the households in Rialto have an income of \$25,000 or less—Redlands is 17%. Redland's population is 73% white, while in Colton, Latino people make 61% of the population. The Rialto Latino Community makes up 65% of the city's population and African Americans contribute 17% to Rialto's population. (US Census 2000)

President Bush didn't tolerate the presence of perchlorate from the McGregor Naval Weapons Station south of Waco in the water supply at the Presidential Ranch at Crawford. Congress appropriated money so that Mr. Bush's water for his animals would be safe to drink, so what about the rest of us?

The California Water Code provides the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) with the authority to require the cleanup and abatement of perchlorate contamination throughout the state.

CALIFORNIA OFFICE  
 111 New Montgomery St. Suite 600  
 San Francisco, CA 94105  
 415.369.9160 • 415.369.9180 fax

[www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca](http://www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca)  
[cwasf@cleanwater.org](mailto:cwasf@cleanwater.org)

NATIONAL OFFICE  
 4455 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite A300  
 Washington, DC 20008  
 202.895.0420 • 202.895.0438 fax

In order to fully exercise their authority and restore aquifers throughout the state to health, I urge the State Water Resources board to adopt cleanup and abatement orders for perchlorate cleanup that require the following:

- 1) Cleanup of perchlorate pollution to the fullest extent that is technically feasible and uses best available technology;
- 2) Provision of safe, alternative water supplies until full cleanup is complete;
- 3) Full reimbursement by responsible dischargers to community members and public utilities that have paid for stop-gap cleanup measures;
- 4) Implementation of strict enforcement measures in the event of a failure to meet cleanup requirements and timelines

Perchlorate does not belong in California's drinking water supplies. By including the measures outlined above in cleanup and abatement orders issued, the State Water Resources Control Board will take the steps necessary to restore vital groundwater resources across the state to health.

Sincerely,



Andria Ventura  
Program Manager