



August 27, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**RE: Draft Resolution for the Discontinuation of Discussions Regarding a Statewide Approach to Addressing Water Quality Impacts from Livestock Grazing**

Dear Chair Marcus:

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is an association of thirty-four rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties. RCRC has been engaged in the Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) since the initial public workshops were held in late 2014, as many of our member counties expressed great concern about the program and its ramifications on ranching operations in rural communities.

Livestock operations are economically vital to many of our member counties, creating jobs and fostering stewardship between ranching and the environment. Grazing mimics the natural system and provides numerous environmental benefits. In addition, many ranching operations are already addressing water quality issues via best management practices (BMP) ranch plans and individual conservation plans, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for grazing activities on public lands already mitigates water quality impacts.

It is also our understanding that members of the livestock operations community are willing to continue voluntarily addressing water quality issues associated with livestock grazing statewide. We encourage both the State and regional boards to work with stakeholders to continue fostering good water quality stewardship through voluntary programs and incentives, as well as to identify those areas where improvements are necessary.

As such, RCRC would like to express our support for the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Draft Resolution for the Discontinuation of Discussions

Ms. Felicia Marcus  
Livestock Grazing  
August 27, 2015  
Page 2

Regarding a Statewide Approach to Addressing Water Quality Impacts from Livestock Grazing.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (916) 447-4806 or [sheaton@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sheaton@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STACI HEATON  
Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
Patty Kouyoumdjian, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board  
RCRC Board of Directors