

From: "Elizabeth O'Shea" <elizos@earthlink.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Fri, Jul 14, 2006 12:21 PM
Subject: comment letter - chlorine policy

State Water Resources Control Board

Gentlemen:

I am urging you to reject the proposed policy on chloramines. Regulation of this chemical in water should be increased not decreased. Chloramine is fatal to aquatic organisms such as fish frogs and aquatic insects.

I am a member of SPAWNERS, a volunteer community group working to improve the San Pablo Creek watershed below San Pablo Dam. Residents in the El Sobrante Valley have reported the enormous loss of wildlife, especially fish and frogs in the creeks, over the last two decades. While chloramines are not the cause of all of this decline, relaxing control of the chemical will only accelerate the loss of wildlife and increase the deterioration of natural processes in the creeks.

Best Management Practices are not working now. My colleagues and I have observed EBMUD water main breaks where the suggested BMP was not used. We need better policies and enforcement to keep chloramines out of the creeks.

Currently agencies and citizen organizations like SPAWNERS are working on a collaborative process with East Bay Municipal Utility District to develop both short and long term plans to control chloramines discharges which will employ more than just the Best Management Practices. BMPS do not go far enough to protect our waters and the organisms that live in them.

Over the last decade, a significant effort from non-profits, agencies, and volunteers has successfully educated residents on the value of functioning creeks and watersheds. More and more residents are doing what they can to protect their creeks. Adopting this policy will render these efforts null.

Please sustain healthy creeks and do NOT adopt the newly proposed "Total Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants Policy of California."

Sincerely

Elizabeth O'Shea
SPAWNERS



Chlorine Policy
Deadline: 7/14/06 5pm

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