

# California State Senate

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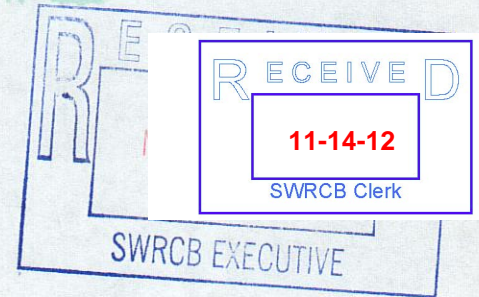
SENATOR  
**ED HERNANDEZ, O.D.**  
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE  
CHAIR  
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION

November 9, 2012

The Honorable Charles R. Hoppin, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, California 95812-0100



**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY  
AUTHORITY'S REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CLEANUP AND  
ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE WHITMORE GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Hoppin,

As the Senator representing many of the communities in the San Gabriel Basin, I am writing to express my support for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority's (WQA) request for \$955,646 in funding over five years from the Cleanup and Abatement Account to continue work at the Whitmore orphan site.

For almost five years, the WQA has successfully operated this project, addressing the twin goals of removing contaminant mass and preventing further migration of the plumes toward 22 down gradient drinking water wells, which supply water to 85,000 residents in the San Gabriel Valley. The cleanup effort provides both hydraulic containment and treatment of volatile organic compounds and 1, 4-dioxane. The project is located in the area of South El Monte where the highest levels of 1,4-dioxane have been detected. If funding for the project is not approved, the plume's migration will affect several disadvantaged communities, including South El Monte, El Monte, Rosemead and Monterey Park. The residents and businesses in these communities would face higher water bills if the plume reaches their wells. Shifting the cost burden to these disadvantaged communities is contrary to the objectives of "environmental justice."

When the WQA first sought Cleanup and Abatement Account funding for this project almost five years ago, I addressed the Board members, explaining the gravity of the threat and the potential impacts to the affected communities if we failed to halt the migration of the contamination plume. In the San Gabriel Basin, we rely on groundwater for 90% of our water supply. It is far wiser to focus cleanup efforts and dollars at the Whitmore site than to allow the contamination to spread, jeopardizing the drinking water of thousands of Californians living in the San Gabriel Basin. Cleanup and/or treatment costs for 22 wells would be far greater than the costs of the Whitmore project.

The Whitmore Groundwater Cleanup Project is only funded through December 31, 2012. I urge the Board to promptly approve the requested funds to ensure its continued operation. Please feel free to contact me at my office at (916) 651-4024 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Hernandez', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**DR. ED HERNANDEZ, O.D.**

California State Senator

24<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Cc: Mr. Tom Howard, Executive Director, SWRCB  
Ms. Maria Mehranian, Chair Los Angeles RWQCB  
Mr. Samuel Unger, Executive Officer, LARWQCB  
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Board Members  
Mr. Kenneth Manning, Executive Director SGBWQA  
Mr. Jackson Gualco  
Mr. Patrick Leathers  
Ms. Elaine Berghausen