



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams,
Secretary for
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 17, 2006

To: Tam Doduc, Chair
Celeste Cantu, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

Michael Young
From: Jeffery Young, Chair
for Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

**E. COLI INVESTIGATION IN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION AND OPPOSITION TO
REDUCTION OF REGIONAL MONITORING FUNDS**

This letter is to request your assistance in obtaining supplemental funds to continue our investigation of E. coli 0157:H7. We also request that you not reduce the annual budget of our highly successful regional monitoring effort for the stated purpose of funding a new statewide monitoring program.

E. Coli Monitoring

We want to begin comprehensive monitoring for E. coli 0157:H7 to help target our regulatory actions and reduce the risk of human exposure to this pathogen. We estimate the cost of this effort to be \$130,000 over the next year, which will include:

1. Adding analysis for presence/absence of E. coli 0157:H7 to the routine monitoring in our Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program
2. Including E. coli 0157:H7 monitoring in the development of the Pajaro River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load.
3. Doing site-specific monitoring when necessary, such as the investigation of specific farm fields, ranches, and adjacent areas.

Without the additional funds, we cannot characterize the distribution and sources of this toxic pathogen. This work is needed to prioritize our regulatory actions according to likely 0157:H7 sources.

Regional Monitoring Funding

We vehemently oppose State Board staff's plan to reduce our annual regional monitoring budget. The Central Coast Water Board is developing specific goals and

Tam Doduc
Celeste Cantu

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objectives based on physical conditions in our region. Our regional monitoring program is the tool that we, and the public, and you, will use to measure our success.

Our regional monitoring program is currently implemented using SWAMP funds. The originally proposed Region 3 allocation from SWAMP was \$306,000 for 06/07, but State Board staff plans to significantly reduce that amount to implement a new statewide monitoring program. We understand the State Board may want statewide information; however, the goal should be to have each region develop an effective program that addresses their unique regional issues, not a dilute statewide program that gives the appearance of consistency. Regions are different; their issues are different; their needs are different; their measures of success will be different. The Mohave Desert is different than the north coast Redwood forest. The regional boards were created based on their unique characteristics. Raise your expectations for the regions; require us to effectively address regional issues, and help those regions that need assistance in developing effective regional programs to measure their success. Your measure of our success should be based on comprehensive regional data for regional issues. Please do not reduce our highly successful regional program, and thereby cripple our ability to measure our own effectiveness.

Please contact Michael Thomas at 805-542-4623 to discuss these requests further. We are happy to provide you with additional information.

California Environmental Protection Agency

