

October 18, 2016

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
c/o Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



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SUBJECT: Comment Letter - Water Quality Enforcement Policy

Dear Chair Marcus and members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Amendments to the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy released for public review on August 4, 2016 (referred to hereinafter as the "Revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy").

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is a special district with jurisdiction throughout Santa Clara County. The District is the county's primary water resources agency and acts as the steward for its watersheds, streams, and creeks. The Water District supports the intent of the Revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy and recognizes the need for clear, fair, and consistent enforcement.

The Water District has the following comments and clarifications to offer:

- One of the Class I violations is discharges causing or contributing to in-stream turbidity in excess of 100 NTU. While we agree that contributing to increased stream turbidity may be a serious issue, in our experience, fish spawning or walking through the creek may cause exceedance of this level. We recommend removing this specific NTU level from the policy.
- For an agency such as the Water District, which receives urban runoff from surrounding land uses and tidal waters near the Bay which may cause water quality issues in our creeks, including fish kills, please clarify how responsibility for the discharge would be assigned.



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In addition, we support and incorporate by reference comments made by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). Please feel free to contact me at (408) 448-8497, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


for Melanie Richardson
Interim Chief Operating Officer, Watersheds