



CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection

October 4, 2017

Mr. Bruce Wolfe
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

I am writing to thank the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for its work on CalEPA's Oakland Environmental Justice Task Force Initiative (EJ Initiative) in 2016 and 2017.

The EJ Initiative brought together federal, state, and local environmental enforcement agencies to focus on environmental problems in two of the state's most disadvantaged communities: East Oakland and West Oakland. Through the EJ Initiative, the enforcement agencies were able to identify and address environmental issues of concern to residents in both communities and build relationships to facilitate better communication and collaboration on environmental issues in the future.

The EJ Initiative required extensive planning and coordination among all of the participating agencies, attendance at multiple community outreach meetings, participation in two community-led bus tours, and performance of inspections at facilities of concern with follow-up enforcement action. The Regional Board's contributions during all phases of the EJ Initiative were invaluable.

I would like to express special thanks for the thoughtful participation of Keith Lichten, Christine Boschen, Brian Thompson, Devender Narala, Elyse Heilshorn, Michelle Rembaum-Fox, and William Johnson of your staff. They were consistently involved in all aspects of the EJ Initiative, including providing valuable input at each decision point, helping to coordinate joint inspections with the State Water Board and compiling past facility inspections to address community concerns. CalEPA staff working on the EJ Initiative especially appreciated Christine Boschen's enthusiasm in our meetings, as well as her heartfelt presentation at our report back to the community.

We look forward to working with the Regional Board on future environmental enforcement matters.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection