

October 17, 2012

Charlie Hoppin, Chair and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board



Dear State Water Board Members:

I appreciate the State Water Board's work to update the 15-year old Industrial General Stormwater Permit. Runoff from industrial facilities can contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, zinc and copper. These pollutants are highly toxic and endanger the health of California communities and watersheds. WE need stronger protections against projects such as Desalination that have been proposed for coastal communities. We must enforce regulations already on the books that are designed to help communities conserve water and stop polluting. We can eliminate ocean polluting outfalls and must take advantage of every opportunity to do so. We can rebuild wastewater treatments plants away from our beaches and rivers. We have the will and need your help to move us forward on these critical issues.

Unfortunately, after more than two years of work, many aspects of the Permit reflect a step backward from the current permit, and even the 2011 draft permit.

I urge the State Water Board to work with staff to develop a streamlined permit that is clear and enforceable, and achieves the shared goal of collecting more and better data. California needs strong limits on the amount of stormwater pollutants discharged into our waterbodies in order to provide dischargers with a clear path to compliance, and facilitate efficient enforcement by the State and Regional Water Boards. Please develop a strong, enforceable Industrial Stormwater Permit that helps ensure that California waterways are safe for swimming, drinking, and fishing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Webb
1186 Hartford
Cambria, California 93428