

Oct 18, 2012

Jeanine Townsend
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Dear Townsend,

I appreciate the state water board's work to update the 15-year-old Industrial General Stormwater Permit. Runoff pollution from industrial facilities can contain heavy metals such as lead, zinc and copper that are highly toxic and endanger California's communities and watersheds.

I am concerned that, after more than two years of work, many aspects of the proposed permit reflect a step backward from the current permit, and even the 2011 draft permit. The granting of environmental exemptions to "farming" operations is one example of permitting gone wrong. Many factory farms and quasi-farming operations hide behind this veiled title and pollute to the extreme. Practices such as spreading sewage sludge on lands in a farming operations contain many metals and other constituents of emerging concern including biologic chemicals passed by humans on rigorous medical regimines are not considered in approving this foul and dangerous practice.

I urge the board to develop a streamlined permit that is clear and enforceable, and that will achieve the shared goal of collecting more and better data. California needs clear limits on the amount of stormwater pollutants discharged into our water bodies in order to provide facilities a clear path to compliance, and to 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.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tina Holt
11655 Clay Station Rd
Herald, CA 95638-9784