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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

22 October 2013

To: MERP Participant List, attached

### **DELTA MERCURY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROGRAM (MERP) WORKPLAN APPROVAL**

The Delta Mercury Control Program, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 22 April 2010, requires entities to develop and implement a mercury exposure reduction program (MERP) that will reduce human exposure to mercury-contaminated Delta fish. A group of about 30 dischargers and other stakeholders agreed to participate in a collective workplan effort rather than submitting individual workplans. Earlier this year a small group worked with Water Board staff to develop a workplan based on the October 2012 MERP strategy document. In early October 2013, on behalf of the MERP participants, staff submitted a MERP Workplan for Executive Officer approval.

The October 2013 MERP Workplan adequately addresses the elements of the October 2012 MERP strategy. Therefore, I approve the MERP Workplan and appreciate those entities that are collaborating on the plan's development and implementation.

The next step to implement the Workplan is for Water Board staff to prepare a contract for a program manager. Soon thereafter the program manager will convene a steering committee and develop exposure reduction activities and budget for the first year of the program. The steering committee meetings will be open to MERP participants and other interested stakeholders.

Please contact my staff if you have any questions regarding this program: Janis Cooke (916) 464-4672, or Patrick Morris (916) 464-4621.

*Original signed by Kenneth D. Landau for*

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer