



Tam Doduc, Chair and Members

Re: Draft SWRCB Order Regarding EBMUD-SWRCB/OCC File No. A-1771

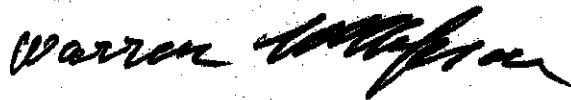
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endpoints to permits in the Central Valley, where the Central Valley Regional Water Board and stakeholders are wrestling with salinity issues. The Central Valley Regional Water Board has recognized that salinity build-up in the Central Valley is a long-term, complex historical issue that will require a comprehensive long-term solution. The State Water Board, too, has recognized that in many instances the identification of applicable water quality criteria for salinity will be based on a consideration of site-specific conditions such as rainfall, soil leaching factors, the types of crops that can be supported by the natural environment and climatic conditions. (*In re City of Woodland Order WQO 2004-0010* (June 2004) pp. 7-8.) To make this site-specific determination (in accordance with the State Board's Order), many Central Valley permits require the permittee to conduct a study and report the findings back to the Central Valley Regional Water Board. The Central Valley Regional Water Board will then determine if there is reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the site-specific criterion, and, if there is, the Central Valley Regional Water Board will impose an appropriate permit limitation to protect the agricultural beneficial use. If the Central Valley Regional Water Board is required to adopt a numeric endpoint in all permits, these studies would be rendered useless, as the Board would have to pre-determine the outcome. We do not believe that the State Water Board intends to tie the hands of the Regional Boards to develop watershed-wide solutions with regard to such complex issues. Nor do we believe that the State Water Board intends to undermine its own decision in the City of Woodland order. Thus, the conclusion regarding "endpoints" in permits must be removed from the proposed Order.

Again, CVCWA thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Order. Due to the unintended consequences this proposed Order may have on other regions, CVCWA encourages the State Water Board to reject the proposed Order.

Sincerely,



Warren Tellefson  
Executive Officer