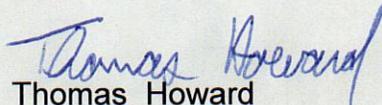

State Water Resources Control Board

TO: Kurt Berchtold
Executive Officer
SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

FROM: 
Thomas Howard
Executive Director
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE: December 16, 2011

SUBJECT: METAL RECYCLERS STORM WATER PERMIT

On October 21, 2011, I sent you a letter in which I stated that adoption by the Santa Ana Regional Board of a sector-specific storm water permit for metal recyclers raises policy and fiscal issues that merit review by the State Water Board. Subsequently, you recommended to the Santa Ana Regional Board that adoption of the permit be deferred while the State Water Board considers the issue. Based on your recommendation, the item was deferred until the February 2012 meeting. I appreciate the courtesy you and the Santa Ana Regional Board extended to me.

You presented this issue to the State Water Board on December 5, 2011. Based on the discussion at the Board meeting, I will not recommend that the State Water Board consider adopting this permit on a statewide basis at this time. If the Santa Ana Regional Board adopts the permit, we will track its implementation and may reconsider the issue at a future date. I continue to believe there are fiscal and policy issues associated with this permit that we as an organization need to address over time regarding more closely aligning our efforts.

Thank you for taking the time to travel to Sacramento and discuss this issue at a State Water Board meeting. If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 341-5615.