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Tam Doduc, Chair and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
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Sacramento, CA 95812

**Subject: Comments on the Draft Strategic Plan Update 2008-2012
(January 25, 2008 – Version 3)**

Dear Chair Doduc and Board Members:

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) appreciates this opportunity to provide these comments on the January 25, 2008 *Draft Strategic Plan Update 2008-2012*. Specifically, "Action 7.2.4" of the revised draft Strategic Plan Update is to, "Establish a pilot program for interagency agreements between Regional Water Boards when more than one Regional Water Board has jurisdiction over a regulated facility to ensure effective and equitable actions."

EMWD strongly supports this Action item, and would like to participate in a pilot program to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards that would allow the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to be the governing agency over EMWD's facilities and operations.

The State Board's goal to create consistency between the Regional Boards on regulatory frameworks and programs is laudable and supported by EMWD. Already, the State Board has begun to develop specific statewide policies for this very purpose, including the Recycled Water Policy and the Compliance Schedule Policy. Another opportunity exists to ensure consistent regulatory oversight that includes the development of agreements for those permit holders – such as EMWD - that are regulated by more than one Regional Board.

EMWD is governed by two Regional Boards (Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Boards) and has direct experience in managing two different interpretations of the regulations by both of these Boards. The areas affected include EMWD's recycled water program, pretreatment program, spill reporting, dewatering, TMDLs, and NPDES permit requirements. The Santa Ana Regional Board uses a collaborative approach through stakeholder meetings to develop creative solutions on regulatory issues, such as, developing the salt and nutrient management programs in their Basin Plan, the nutrient TMDL for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake, and now the plan for addressing emerging contaminants. In contrast, the San Diego Regional Board typically works within a framework which has greatly reduced or eliminated recycled water programs and NPDES permits.

This has a direct affect on EMWD's programs, and very limited recycling activities, for example, occur in the San Diego Regional Board's jurisdiction.

If the SWRCB plans to undertake a pilot project for inter-agency agreements, then EMWD would be a good candidate for this concept. EMWD has a compliance ethic to go beyond full compliance with environmental regulations, and EMWD is willing to try new approaches to achieve permit compliance. EMWD would request that the agreement provide the Santa Ana Regional Board authority over EMWD, as the majority of our recycled water activities are within the Santa Ana Region, and the flow from the Regional Water Reclamation Facility that EMWD owns in the San Diego Region is primarily pumped into the Santa Ana Region for reuse or disposal. Our experience with the Santa Ana Regional Board has been very proactive and collaborative.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Pack". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Anthony Pack
General Manager

cc: Craig Johns, California Resource Strategies, Inc.
Records Management
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