



# CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC.

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, CHANGING LIVES

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December 18, 2014

Felicia Marcus, Chair

State Water Resources Control Board 1001 "I" Street,  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Letter of Support for UCLA and State Water Board Pilot Water  
Treatment Project in the Salinas Valley

Dear Ms. Marcus:

This letter is to express the enthusiastic support of California Rural  
Legal Assistance, Inc. ("CRLA") for the proposed UCLA and State Water  
Board Pilot Water Treatment Project in the Salinas Valley.

CRLA has worked for many years alongside rural disadvantaged  
communities struggling with the effects of nitrate contaminated drinking water.  
The serious negative health impacts of drinking water polluted by nitrates are  
well known, but the solutions to resolve nitrate contamination have been out of  
reach for most of these disadvantaged communities.

The water treatment pilot project proposed by UCLA is the most  
feasible and practical technological solution to the widespread nitrate  
contamination problem affecting geographically isolated rural communities that  
we are aware of. For that reason, it has been a pleasure for CRLA staff to work  
with Madelyn Glickfeld and her team to help identify communities who could  
potentially benefit from the "smart" water treatment systems developed by  
CRLA. We are excited about the possibility of these Salinas Valley  
Communities reaping the potential benefits of these systems. Further, if the  
pilot project proves to be successful and sustainable, the "smart" water  
treatment systems may be replicated in many other disadvantaged communities  
throughout the State. The UCLA pilot could in fact establish one clear and  
feasible path to eliminating nitrate contaminated drinking water in many small  
rural water systems in California.

We strongly encourage the State Water Resources Board to fund the  
pilot water treatment project proposed by UCLA. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Meuter

Migrant Unit Director

