

## Association of California Water Agencies

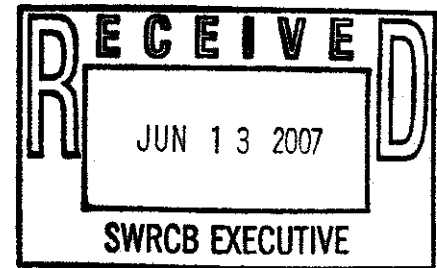
Leadership Advocacy Information Since 1910

6/28/07 Workshop  
WQ Enforcement  
Deadline: 6/14/07 Noon

June 13, 2007

*Via Email (commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)*

Song Her, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Subject: Initial Comments from ACWA for the June 28, 2007, Workshop Regarding Policy Direction for Water Quality Enforcement**

To the Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is a voluntary, statewide nonprofit association comprised of 440 public water agencies that was founded in 1910. Together these agencies are responsible for more than 90 percent of the water delivered in the state. ACWA member agencies range in size from small irrigation districts to the largest urban water wholesalers in the country. ACWA member agencies manage, treat and distribute water to rural communities, farms, industries, and cities. ACWA represents its members before the state Legislature, the United States Congress and numerous regulatory bodies including the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

ACWA supports the principle of a SWRCB policy for water quality enforcement that provides predictable, fair, firm, and consistent enforcement of water quality protection laws throughout the state, with due consideration of each case's individual facts. ACWA also believes that the water quality enforcement policy should not be developed in a vacuum, but should reflect the vision and strategic plan now being developed by the SWRCB and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards through the facilitated process that began with the Water Boards Summit in March 2007.

The water quality enforcement policy clearly must be separate and independent from the water rights enforcement policy that is also currently being considered. ACWA and numerous water agencies, engineers and attorneys are participating in that process, which is also of great importance and which is likely to consume considerable time and energy.

Because these three activities are essentially running in parallel, ACWA respectfully requests that the water quality enforcement policy direction activities, including the scheduled Workshop on June 28, 2007, be delayed for 60 or 90 days, so as to allow interested parties to have sufficient time for (1) thoughtful review of the current 50-page

State Water Resources Control Board

Re: June 28, 2007 Water Quality Enforcement Workshop

June 13, 2007

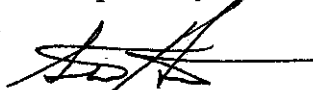
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water quality enforcement policy, and (2) consideration of possible changes to that policy in light of direction that the strategic plan will take.

It would be especially valuable to interested parties if the Workshop could be renoticed, and if the new Notice could be accompanied by a staff summary of currently perceived problems with water quality enforcement, and by the staff's recommendations for policy changes for activities of either the SWRCB or the Regional Boards.

Our member agencies' opportunities for success in carrying out their responsibilities will be enhanced and reinforced if the roles of the SWRCB and the Regional Boards are clearly defined and if the enforcement policies are clear and unambiguous. ACWA is committed to continue to work cooperatively with the SWRCB, the nine Regional Boards, and their staffs in these important endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hall", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen K. Hall  
Executive Director