

LAW OFFICES OF
PATRICK J. MALONEY

2425 WEBB AVENUE, SUITE 100
ALAMEDA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA 94501-2922



PATRICK J. "MIKE" MALONEY

(510) 521-4575
FAX (510) 521-4623
e-mail: PIMLAW@pacbell.net

THOMAS S. VIRSIK

Via email commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
August 27, 2012

Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter – Central Coast Agricultural Order Stay Hearing
SWRCB/OCC FILES A-2209(c) and (d) - Thursday, August 30, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

This letter supplements our letter to you dated July 13, 2012.

The comments of the Regional Board in response to the Petitions as well as other comments citing to the so-called Harter Report "Addressing Nitrate in California Drinking Water" 2012 (Harter Report) continue to ignore the value of the existing databases which have been created by (1) the SWRCB in connection with Section 5100 and (2) the County of Monterey pursuant to Ordinances and enforced by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) as a result of pressure from the SWRCB on the Salt Water Intrusion Issue.

The Regional Board proposes to create another database and ignore the ongoing efforts of the SWRCB and the MCWRA to manage information relating to crop, land and water management. The problems with the type of information previously collected by various governmental agencies relating to crop, land and water management is described in detail in Technical Reports 2 and 3 of the Harter Report. Each Board Member before he or she makes a decision should carefully review Technical Reports 2 and 3 and ask what the SWRCB can do to create an information base from the existing data and future data to be collected which would be helpful to the farming and environmental communities. The information base would then give the SWRCB the ability to give direction to the farming and environmental communities when needed to deal with important issues of the State on crop, land and water management issues.

It makes absolutely no sense for SWRCB to create another database with much of the same information which has already been collected and should be collected pursuant to Statute by

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the SWRCB and pursuant to ordinance by MCWRA. There should be one publicly accessible database with all of the information dealing with all crop, land and water management data in the region so appropriate public policies on different water issues can be pursued.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick J. Maloney

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cc: Thomas Harter, PhD