



Association of California Water Agencies

Leadership Advocacy Information Since 1910

May 30, 2007

Karen O'Haire
Senior Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 22nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SWRCB/OCC File A-1824

Dear Ms. O'Haire:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is writing to express our support for actions by the State Water Resources Control Board to address groundwater contamination problems in the Rialto area. ACWA consists of 450 public water agencies. Our members supply over 90% of the delivered water in California for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.

ACWA members strive to protect public health and ensure all of our customers have access to safe, clean water. In ACWA's 2005 policy document *No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water* we state our support for "programs designed to prevent groundwater contamination and ensure that those responsible for pollution pay for cleanup and replacement water if necessary." Unfortunately, many polluters are unwilling to fulfill their environmental obligations and accept responsibility for cleaning up their facilities and regulatory agencies have not been aggressive enough with their cleanup enforcement authorities.

All too often it is the water suppliers and their ratepayers who shoulder the responsibilities and costs associated with groundwater contamination that has been caused by others. This situation is unacceptable. We support efforts by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Resources Control Board to expedite the cleanup of perchlorate and TCE in the Rialto area and ensure that those responsible for the contamination pay all associated cleanup costs.

We appreciate the Board's leadership on this issue and thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Krista Clark
Director of Regulatory Affairs