

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2007

Karen O'Haire, Senior Staff Counsel
Water Resources Control Board
1011 I St., 22nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Reference: (SWRCB/OCC FILE A-1824)

Dear Ms. O'Haire:

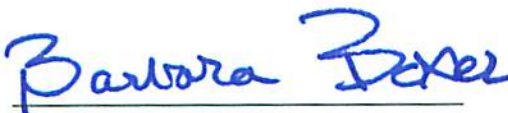
We submit these comments on the California Water Resources Control Board's (Board) draft order on the Perchlorate Contamination at a 160-Acre Site in the Rialto Area. We support making polluters pay to cleanup their contamination including perchlorate and trichloroethylene (TCE), and providing long-term protection to families and individuals in the Cities of Rialto, Colton, Fontana, and elsewhere in San Bernardino County.

Decades of perchlorate and TCE use and disposal have polluted the Rialto-Colton water basin. The area of contaminated groundwater is believed to be more than six miles long, with perchlorate concentrations of up to 10,000 parts per billion and TCE levels greater than 700 parts per billion. Seven of Rialto's thirteen water wells have been removed for some period due to contamination.

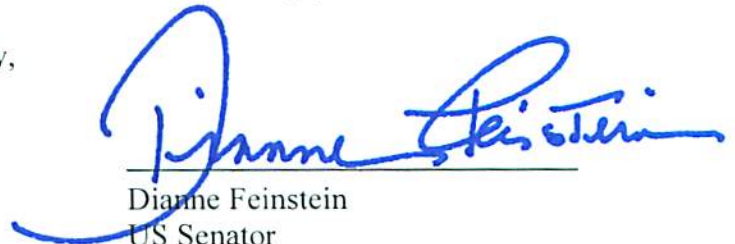
Perchlorate can harm the functioning of the thyroid gland, which guides mental and physical development, especially of pregnant women, infants, and children. A 2006 federal Centers for Disease Control study found that even low perchlorate levels may harm the thyroid's normal functioning, particularly in iodine-deficient women. TCE is an industrial cleaning agent that causes cancer and other health effects. A 2006 National Academy of Sciences report found that evidence of TCE's ability to cause cancer has only increased in recent years and that cleanups should occur "expeditiously".

Cities and water providers have worked for years to protect drinking water quality and have tried to get responsible parties to clean up contamination. Delay has allowed the problem to grow. We urge the Board to help make responsible parties pay to clean up this contamination to ensure that the health all members of the public and our water resources are fully protected.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
US Senator



Dianne Feinstein
US Senator

cc: Tam Doduc, Water Resources Control Board