

# Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

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Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
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Dear Ms. Doduc and Ms. O'Haire:

The purpose of this letter is to provide public comment regarding **WRCB/OCC File A-1824**.

We join with residents of the Inland Valleys of southern California, the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) and Environment California in calling for a strong comprehensive Clean up and Abatement Order on the 160-acre site in the Rialto area. The cleanup of this area has languished for more than 10 years, and has destroyed more than 24 drinking water wells in the area. It is time for action.

As you are aware, perchlorate impacts the thyroid and can impair brain development in fetuses, infants, and children. According to a recent Centers for Disease Control study (Blount et al, 2006) perchlorate can affect the human body at levels 11 times lower than EPA's current reference dose of 24.5 parts per billion (ppb).

The California Water Code provides the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) with the authority to require the cleanup and abatement of Perchlorate contamination throughout the state.

In order to fully exercise their authority and restore aquifers throughout the state to health, I urge the State Water Board to adopt cleanup and abatement orders for Perchlorate cleanup that require the following:

- 1) Cleanup of Perchlorate pollution to the fullest extent that is technically feasible and uses best available technology;
- 2) Provision of safe, alternative water supplies until full cleanup is complete;
- 3) Full reimbursement by responsible dischargers to community members and public utilities that have paid for stop-gap cleanup measures;
- 4) Implementation of strict enforcement measures in the event of a failure to meet cleanup requirements and timelines

Perchlorate does not belong in California's drinking water supplies. By including the measures outlined above in cleanup and abatement orders issued, the State Water Resources Control Board will take the steps necessary to restore vital groundwater resources across the state to health.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davis  
Legislative Analyst