

# Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

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March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 1001 I Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Doduc:

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

Only six miles separate Redlands from Colton and Rialto, yet the cleanup of the drinking water supply has been handled in two drastically different ways. In Redlands, cleanup and abatement orders were issued to the corporate polluter, Lockheed Martin, in the same year the Perchlorate was discovered. On the other hand, the three most responsible corporate polluters in Rialto and Colton—Goodrich Corp., Black & Decker, and PyroSpectacular—have not had any cleanup and abatement order enforced in the ten years since the discovery of Perchlorate in Rialto and Colton's drinking water supply.

The lack of rocket fuel cleanup in Rialto and Colton is indisputably an issue of environmental racism. In Redlands, 56% of the household incomes ranges from \$50,000-\$200,000. In contrast, 28% of the households in Rialto have an income of \$25,000 or less—Redlands is 17%. Redland's population is 73% white, while in Colton, Latino people make up 61% of the population. The Rialto Latino Community makes up 65% of the city's population and African Americans contribute 17% to Rialto's population. (US Census 2000)

President Bush didn't tolerate the presence of Perchlorate from the McGregor Naval Weapons Station south of Waco in the water supply at the Presidential Ranch at Crawford. Congress appropriated money so that Bush's water for his animals would be safe to drink, so what about the rest of us?

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 Resources 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, the State Water Resources Control Board will take the steps necessary to restore vital groundwater resources across the state to health.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davis

cc: Karen O'Haire Esq., Office of General Counsel