

October 20, 2012

Charlie Hoppin, Chair and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board



Dear Mr. Hoppin and State Water Board Members:

I grew up in California, and have seen many changes both good and not so. But one thing is clear-- the population has increased tremendously since the 1950s, and with more people, we require more close management of our impacts, in order to maintain a healthy environment, healthy for both people and biodiversity. That is why I am writing today.

I appreciate the State Water Board's work to update the 15-year old Industrial General Stormwater Permit. Runoff from industrial facilities can contain heavy metals such as lead, zinc and copper. These pollutants are highly toxic and endanger the health of California communities and watersheds. Unfortunately, after more than two years of work, many aspects of the Permit reflect a step backward from the current permit, and even the 2011 draft permit.

I urge the State Water Board to work with staff to develop a streamlined permit that is clear and enforceable, and achieves the shared goal of collecting more and better data. California needs clear limits on the amount of stormwater pollutants discharged into our waterbodies in order to provide dischargers with a clear path to compliance, and facilitate efficient enforcement by the State and Regional Water Boards. Please develop a strong, enforceable Industrial Stormwater Permit that helps ensure that California waterways are safe for swimming, drinking, and fishing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary Falxa
1615 Swanson Ln
Eureka, California 95503

