



January 30, 2006

303 (d) Deadline: 1/31/06

Selcia Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Office
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on revision to federal clean water act section 303d list of water quality limited segments in California

I am commenting on behalf of the Grassland Basin Drainers who have implemented a selenium control program for the Grassland Drainage Area. The Grassland Drainage Area has been intimately involved in the selenium issue since the discovery of selenium in the Kesterson Reservoir in the mid 1980's. Water from the Grassland Drainage area never was discharged into Kesterson Reservoir but historically discharged into the Grassland wetlands and into the San Joaquin River. When selenium was found at Kesterson Reservoir a process began where regulations were placed on the discharge of selenium from the Grassland Drainage Area. Those regulations resulted in waste discharge requirements in 1998 and revised in 2001 (Waste Discharge Requirements 98-171 and 5-01-234), which placed limits on the amount of selenium that can be discharge to the wetlands channels and the San Joaquin River. A significant monitoring program is part of these permits and the results of that monitoring needs to be considered in the revision to the 303(d) listings. These results are available on the regional board web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb5/programs/agunit/swamp/gbpsites.html>. Review of the data will clearly indicate that there is no need to add Grassland Marshes, Salt Slough (upstream of the confluence of the San Joaquin River) or the San Joaquin River (Merced River to the Tuolumne River) for selenium. The data from the Grassland Bypass project will indicate that water quality objectives for selenium at these location have been met for all practicality 100% of the time.

Very truly yours

Joseph C. McGahan
Drainage Coordinator, Grassland Basin Drainers

842 SIXTH STREET

SUITE 7

P.O. BOX 2157

LOS BANOS, CA

93635

209 826-9696

209 826 9698 FAX