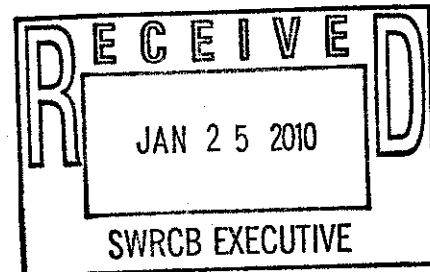


**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 302
PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA 93447**

January 26, 2010

Mr. Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814



Dear Mr. Hoppin:

San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association is writing this letter in concern that actions of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the Central Coast Region are prohibiting ranching and agriculture activities. These TMDLs could have severe economic impacts on ranchers and farmers from our region. Agriculture is our number one industry in the Central Coast Region. Farming and ranching also provide the open space for wildlife, including endangered species. Open space has secondary benefits of tourism which is also an important economic industry. Here on the Central Coast we value our rural lifestyle.

Our ranching community has been proactively working at being environmental stewards of the land. We have been working with agencies such as the UC Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other government agencies on implementing the State Water Resources Control Board's water quality plan for ranchers. In 1997 the ranch water quality short courses were initiated and began developing ranch water quality plans for over 900,000 acres in our region. We are constantly trying to improve in our ranching practices through additional educational efforts. The short courses will continue, and we have also put together Central Coast Cattlemen's Grazing Lands Non-Point Source Approach. This plan is currently under peer review and has been submitted to our RWQCB. In addition a group of ranchers have come together working with UCCE, NRCS, Cattlemen's RCD, with a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to develop a rancher sustainability self assessment training program.

We feel that we are taking the right steps to improve and protect water quality from rangelands. There are already enough laws and regulations in place for those who are creating accelerated pollution problems. Any extra regulations will be a burden to us and put many of us out of business.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lazanoff, President
SLO Co. Cattlemen's Association