

June 21, 2011

Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 900 (Steinberg) Regional Water Quality Control Boards - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Wieckowski:

We write to express our support for SB 900 (Steinberg) which seeks to address the 10 percent rule that governs Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) members.

In 2008, the California Environmental Protection Agency developed the Water Quality Improvement Initiative in an effort to improve the ability to identify, appoint and retain qualified candidates to serve on Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The 10 percent rule was one proposal that came out of that effort as it has been problematic finding qualified people to serve.

This change in statute will expand the pool of candidates eligible to serve on Regional Water Boards (RWQCB) by focusing the application of the 10-percent rule to apply on a per-region basis. Currently, people who receive more than 10 percent of their incomes from regulated interests are ineligible to serve which makes the pool of qualified individuals small. This bill would apply the provision to income from persons or entities that receive NPDES permits from the member's regional water board but would not apply the restriction to income that is from persons or entities subject to an NPDES permit issued by other RWQCB.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 900 (Steinberg) and urge a yes vote on the bill when presented before you.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Western Milk Producers
American Council of Engineering
Companies of California
California Agricultural Irrigation Association
California Association of Sanitation
Agencies
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners and Growers
Associations
California Forestry Association

California Grain and Feed Association
California Grape and Tree Fruit League
California League of Food Processors
California Manufacturers & Technology
Association
California Metals Coalition
California Pear Growers
California Rice Commission
California Rice Industry Association
California Seed Association
California State Floral Association
California Trucking Association

California Warehouse Association
California Wheat Growers Association
Chemical Industry Council of California
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
El Dorado Irrigation District
Grower-Shipper Association of Central
California
Grower-Shipper Association of Santa
Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties
Kings River Conservation District
Kings River Water Association
Monterey County Farm Bureau
Nisei Farmers League

Northern California Water Association
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality
Coalition
Valley Ag Water Coalition
Western Agricultural Processors
Association
Western Growers
Western Plant Health Association
Wine Institute

Cc: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Members of the Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee