

January 7, 2005

State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Debbie Irvin, Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Bay-Delta Plan Periodic Review

Dear Members of the Board:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as one of the implementing agencies of the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program (DWQP), appreciates this opportunity to provide you with comments on the Periodic Review of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (1995 Plan). My comments here are limited to the Contra Costa Water District chloride objective. EPA may offer additional comments as the SWRCB's workshops proceed.

EPA recommends that you consider retaining the existing chloride objective because of the protection it provides to municipal users in the Delta. As you may be aware, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has undertaken a comprehensive effort to develop a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy. EPA has been pleased to support this effort, which also has the participation and financial support of a broad group of agencies and stakeholders. Eventually, this effort will inform the need for additional and/or different standards to fully protect drinking water. In the interim, we believe it is most prudent to retain the current chloride objective.

EPA looks forward to working with the Board on this important review of the 1995 Plan.

Sincerely,

Karen Schwinn,
Deputy Director
Water Division