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**SRCSD Files Lawsuit Requesting Relief  
from Wastewater Discharge Permit Requirements**

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SACRAMENTO – Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) filed a lawsuit in Superior Court on Friday requesting relief from the filtration, disinfection, and ammonia removal requirements contained in its new wastewater discharge permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in December 2010.

The new permit was very stringent, requiring SRCSD to construct an estimated \$2 billion in projects at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant by 2020. Because of that, significant hikes in customers’ monthly rates and connection fees paid by new development will be needed over the next nine years.

SRCSD appealed portions of the permit to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) in January 2011. By law, the State Board had until December 23, 2011 to issue a decision on the appeal, however, it did not. Instead, it invoked a procedural option that allows it to consider the appeal with no statutory timeframe.

“SRCSD is currently in limbo with our appeal, as we are held to all the permit conditions but with no certainty if they will ultimately be required,” explained Stan Dean, SRCSD District Engineer. “The result is that we could expend significant resources and dollars while waiting for final resolution.”

The permit’s filtration and disinfection requirements alone equate to approximately \$1.2 billion in improvements to be made operational by 2020. These requirements are based on a risk standard that far exceed Federal and State water quality standards for pathogens, including USEPA national criteria.

For ammonia, SRCSD has committed to removing approximately 50% from the region’s wastewater discharge because it is scientifically justified based on future river conditions. However, conclusive science on the effect of ammonia on the Delta ecosystem has not been established, and full removal of ammonia - as required in the permit and at a ratepayer cost of nearly \$800 million - is not scientifically justified.

As a wastewater treatment utility, SRCSD takes seriously its responsibility to protect the environment, and has an exemplary record of permit compliance and environmental stewardship. At the same time, SRCSD should protect ratepayers from unnecessary financial burdens, and demands that regulatory actions be necessary, reasonable and based on sound and compelling science, as the Clean Water Act and California Water Code dictate.

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