



March 14, 2003

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Ms. Patricia Leary
Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Dear Ms. Patricia Leary:

SUBJECT: SRCSD Mercury Offset Meeting Follow-up Activities

This letter is to follow up on the discussion that occurred during the SRCSD's mercury offset program work group meeting that occurred on February 28, 2003, concerning the exchange of mercury-related project information relevant to a viable offset package. The SRCSD is preparing a list of projects or the types of projects that we believe warrant further evaluation. It is our understanding that the work group expressed the desire to pursue multiple objectives in the filling of the mercury offset program "basket." Those objectives include:

- A mercury mass reduction program or project,
- Research to enhance the state of knowledge surrounding mercury behavior in the environment, and
- Outreach/public education to directly address risk reduction.

We will be working over the next few weeks to develop our list of projects and types of projects aimed at satisfying each of these objectives.

In the course of the work group discussion surrounding the types of projects that would be packaged together as the overall offset program, it is our understanding that the Regional and State Board Staff would collaborate and develop distinguishing characteristics and/or criteria that you will use to evaluate the suitability of projects and/or the mix of projects in that package that both State and Regional Board staff feel is "saleable" or defensible to their respective Board Members. Further, it is critical to the process of determining offset program feasibility for SRCSD to be aware of any specific projects or types of projects, that we shouldn't pursue, such as projects pending action by a state or federal agency. We ask if you might also collaborate to develop such a list.


If you have a different recollection of any of the above information or commitments, please feel free to contact myself or Vicki Fry to discuss those details. We would like to schedule a meeting with you, possibly in the first week of April, to exchange the above information and allow sufficient time to

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develop a coordinated presentation for the next work group meeting, anticipated for early May. Please let Vicki (916-876-6113) know at your earliest convenience, an appropriate date for such a meeting.

We greatly appreciate your time and interest in this program and we value your contribution to this effort.

Sincerely,


Robert F. Shanks
District Engineer

RFS/WHK/VF:gjl (Mercury Offset Meeting Letter 3-14-03)

cc: Mike Levy, State Water Resources Control Board
Vicki Fry, SRCSD