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Pam Buford, CVRWQCB  
Fresno, CA

Pam:

This is to follow up on your request for comments on the draft Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy at today's public workshop on the Strategy. I wish to submit the following comments.

Several years ago Dr. Anne Jones-Lee and I prepared the reports, Lee, G. F. and Jones-Lee, A., "Groundwater Quality Protection Issues," Report of G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, February 2007; Presented in part at CA/NV AWWA Fall Conference, Sacramento, CA, October (2007).  
<http://www.gfredlee.com/Groundwater/GWProtectionIssues.pdf>

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Groundwater Quality Protection Issues," Presented in part at CA/NV AWWA Fall Conference, Sacramento, CA, PowerPoint Slides, G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, October (2007).  
<http://www.gfredlee.com/Groundwater/GWProtectionIssues-sli.pdf>

In August 2009, in response to a request for comments, we prepared the following comments for CVRWQCB's Public Workshop, "Development of a Strategy to Protect the Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in the Central Valley":

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Comments on Developing a Strategy for Protection of Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in the Central Valley, CA," Prepared for CVRWQCB Public Workshop, "Development of a Strategy to Protect the Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in the Central Valley," CVRWQCB, Rancho Cordova, CA, August 24 (2009).  
<http://www.gfredlee.com/Groundwater/GroundwaterProtectionStrategy-sli.pdf>

I was surprised that the CVRWQCB apparently did not make those or other comments submitted in response to its request for comments, available on its Groundwater Quality website. I request, in response to your recent request for comments, that you make these comments available on the CVRWQCB website.

At today's workshop I commented that the proposed "roadmap" to developing a groundwater quality protection strategy was significantly deficient in that it failed to address the well-known and significant problems with the groundwater quality protection approach that the CVRWQCB has been following in permitting Subtitle D MSW landfills. It has been well-established since the late 1980's that the minimum Subtitled D landfill siting, design, operation, closure, and

postclosure care provisions being allowed by the CVRWQCB will not protect public health and the environment for as long as the wastes in the landfill will be a threat. Detailed, updated information with more than 50 references to the technical literature on these issues is provided in:

Lee, G. F., and Jones-Lee, A., "Flawed Technology of Subtitle D Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste," Report of G. Fred Lee & Associates, El Macero, CA, December (2004). Updated June (2010). <http://www.gfredlee.com/Landfills/SubtitleDFlawedTechnPap.pdf>

A meaningful, comprehensive, and technically sound groundwater quality protection strategy must include a roadmap to revised the minimum requirements for developing MSW landfills in the Central Valley.

At today's workshop I asked about how the proposed strategy will address the issues of groundwater pollution caused by irrigated agriculture. This issue is discussed in my 2007 and 2009 reviews of deficiencies in groundwater quality protection that are referenced above. As discussed by experts in the field, the best that can be done in regard to groundwater pollution for irrigated agriculture is reduce the magnitude of the pollution; it cannot be eliminated. You responded to my comment by indicating that this issue is being addressed in the CVRWCB Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. I have followed that program and have commented on its deficiency in groundwater quality protection provisions that would lead to minimizing groundwater quality pollution by irrigated agriculture. By way of this email I am asking Joe Karkoski, or others as appropriate, for information on the current provisions of the ILRP that address the control of groundwater pollution by irrigated agriculture. It is important that the current state of development of a program to protect the Central Valley groundwaters from further pollution by irrigated agriculture be understood.

If you or others have questions on these comments please contact me. Also please make these comments available on the CVRWQCB's Groundwater Quality website.

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