

For presentation at the July 10, 2024, SF Regional Board hearing

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: Public Comment on Tentative Order Regulating Nutrients in Discharges from Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities to San Francisco Bay**

Dear Members of the Board:

As a Bay Area resident, I am concerned about the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's (SF Regional Board's) proposed order on nutrients. I care deeply about the health of the Bay and believe it is important to reduce nutrients entering the Bay. However, we need science-based, financially sound solutions that will best protect the Bay and our communities.

To meet the steep nutrient reduction requirements region-wide will cost more than \$11 billion—or about \$4,000 per household. This is a costly burden for many vulnerable members of our community, seniors, and working families already struggling to make ends meet. And because the proposed requirements are not based on well-developed science, there is no assurance that these costs would have the intended benefit to the Bay.

Moreover, the short timeline of the proposed requirements precludes the ability to implement thoughtful, multi-benefit solutions, including regional recycled water projects that would reduce nutrient impacts to the Bay while also conserving our precious drinking water supplies, especially in the face of climate change.

For all of these reasons, I urge the SF Regional Board to:

- Grant a 90-day extension to the public comment period.
- Conduct Bay Area listening sessions to ensure the public is aware of the proposed order and to hear community concerns before adoption.
- Follow the science to concentrate on where nutrient reductions will have the greatest benefit for the Bay.
- Develop a detailed financial analysis to determine impacts to Bay Area residents including disadvantaged, senior, and tribal communities.
- Provide time and drive development of multi-benefit solutions that include both nutrient reduction and recycled water, and are worthy of the investment by Bay Area residents.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]