COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422
www.lacsd.org

JAMES F. STAHL
Chief Engineer and General Manager

November 14, 2006

Original Faxed
11/15/06 @ 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Bob Sawyer, Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, 23rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Clerk of the Board

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

Comments on the November 2006 Proposed Amendments to the California Consumer Products Regulations

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) appreciate the opportunity to comment on the November 2006 Proposed Amendments to the California Consumer Products Regulations (Proposed Amendments). The Districts support the efforts of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to more stringently regulate perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene in consumer products. Specifically, the Districts strongly support CARB's proposed action prohibiting of the use of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene in Construction, Panel, and Floor Covering Adhesives, Oven Cleaners, General Purpose Cleaners, and Bathroom and Tile Cleaners (Section 94509(p) of the Proposed Amendments). The Districts agree with CARB staff that the proposed prohibition of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene is necessary to mitigate potential adverse impacts that would result from implementing the volatile organic compound (VOC) limits for these categories (i.e., to prevent possible reformulation using these compounds), and to ensure a level playing field among all products. Such a prohibition would be expected to reduce discharges of these toxic compounds to sewer systems, and would not be expected to result in any adverse cross-media impacts to water.

Among its many responsibilities, the Districts provide sewerage services to over 5 million residents, numerous commercial businesses, and over three thousand industrial facilities within Los Angeles County. The Districts operate eleven wastewater treatment plants, including ten that treat wastewater to a superior quality suitable for reuse. These plants produce over 190 million gallons of recycled water per day, with over sixty million gallons per day used for applications including groundwater recharge, landscape irrigation, and industrial uses. The water that is not reused is discharged to surface waters that have beneficial uses including groundwater recharge, water recreation, warm fresh water habitat, wildlife habitat, commercial and sport fishing, and rare, threatened, or endangered species spawning, reproduction, and early development.

All of our recycled water must meet drinking water limits, which includes a stringent limit of 5 parts per billion (ppb) for perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene. Additionally, the Districts may be required to meet more stringent limits for these toxic compounds in the future. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has established limits of 0.8 ppb, 4.7 ppb and 2.7 ppb for perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene, respectively, for recycled water that is discharged to surface water bodies in California that are designated as current or potential municipal drinking water sources.

Recycled Paper

solvent cleaning and [illegible]
perchloroethylene dry cleaning, support of CARB's efforts to phase-out use of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene in automotive cleaning products, and support of CARB's previous efforts to phase out use of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride and trichloroethylene in other categories of consumer products (i.e., contact adhesives, electrical cleaners, footwear/leather care products, general purpose degreasers, adhesive removers, electrical cleaners, and graffiti removers). Despite these aggressive efforts, perchloroethylene and methylene chloride concentrations in the recycled water produced by our water reclamation plants still occasionally exceed the 5 ppb drinking water criterion.

The amount of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride, or trichloroethylene needed to cause a discharge violation at the Districts' water reclamation facilities, particularly the smaller facilities, is very small. Only a fifth of an ounce of one of these toxic compounds is enough to potentially cause a discharge violation at one of the smaller water reclamation plants (based on the 5 ppb discharge limitation, a 6 million gallon per day treatment plant, and the compound entering the plant over a one-hour period.) Because such a small amount of perchloroethylene, methylene chloride, or trichloroethylene can cause a discharge violation, the Districts believe that CARB should prohibit the use of these toxic chlorinated solvents in all categories of consumer products regulated for VOCs.

In addition, the Districts request that the section of the Proposed Amendments regarding Special Reporting Requirements for Consumer Products that Contain Perchloroethylene or Methylene Chloride (Section 94513(e) of the Proposed Amendments) be updated so that reporting requirements are the same for both of these compounds. Specifically, Section 94513(e)(4) should be modified to include reporting requirements for methylene chloride, as well as perchloroethylene. This information would assist publicly-owned treatment works that have experienced increased levels of these compounds in determining if the levels can be attributed to consumer products containing perchloroethylene, or methylene chloride.

The Districts urge CARB to take all actions necessary to minimize the discharge of [illegible] methylene chloride and trichloroethylene to the sewer system. The Districts

James F. Stahl

Paul C. Martyn

Paul C. Martyn
Head, Industrial Waste Section

PCM:HL:sok
Doc# 714962