April 25, 2008

Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA  93401

Request for Additional Public Input on February 15, 2008 NPDES Phase II Requirements and Delay of Upcoming Regional Board Action on Onsite Wastewater Basin Plan Amendments

Dear Mr. Briggs:

The City Council of Atascadero has been informed that new septic system Basin Plan requirements will be considered by your board on May 9, 2008. In addition, you have issued new NPDES Phase II requirements on all remaining cities with un-approved Storm Water Management Plans. The City of Atascadero is very concerned about these recent developments. We are, therefore, requesting that the May 9, 2008, hearing on the Basin Plan Requirements be postponed until July 2008 to allow for additional public comment, and that the new requirements contained in your February 15, 2008 letter be subject to additional public input.

The Atascadero City Council met on April 22, 2008, and discussed the upcoming changes to the Septic System Basin Plan Requirements. Several members of the public voiced concerns over the proposed changes and indicated that public notification by your staff was inadequate and requested more time to be allowed for public input and discussion. We believe that the changes proposed in the basin plan are significant and more time is needed to adequately inform the public. We request that the hearing be postponed until the Regional Board’s July or August meetings. This will allow our citizens more time to be involved and provide comments.

In addition, our staff also presented the requirements of your February 15, 2008 letter. Your letter indicates that four additional requirements need to be addressed in our Storm Water Management Plan. My understanding is that these requirements are above and beyond the NPDES Phase II requirements and were developed without public input. The City Council and I
are very concerned about this since public input is key to public acceptance. We request that these new requirements be rescinded and at very least, vetted through a public input process.

The City has enjoyed a great working relationship with you and your staff, and I hope you will consider and grant our request. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Steve Kahn, Public Works Director, at (805) 470-3480.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mike Brennler, Mayor
City of Atascadero