

**CA State Board of Food and Agriculture
Food Processing Water Quality Policy Resolution**

WHEREAS, protecting the state's water resources is critical for continued sustainable growth, economic prosperity and environmental enhancement, and

WHEREAS, the state's food production and processing industry is of vital importance to the state and central valley economies, and

WHEREAS, the food processing industry is critical to the prosperity of the Central Valley and provides over 200,000 jobs while accounting for a full 23 percent of regional employment and 29 percent of regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and

WHEREAS, water quality regulatory policy must be based on sound science and engineering, and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is now implementing a new regulatory strategy and policies to address the management and beneficial use of food processing water discharges without benefit of public hearing and consideration of socio-economic implications, and

WHEREAS, recent actions by the Central Valley regulators appear to be in conflict with statewide water conservation and recycling goals and may stifle innovation, and

RESOLVED, that the State Board recognizes the complex statewide issues associated with this issue and strongly believes that a comprehensive effort must be undertaken to develop long-term policies and solutions to address food processing byproduct water treatment issues including a statewide salt management plan, and

RESOLVED, that the State Board applauds the recent announcement by the State Water Resources Control Board to undertake such a comprehensive discussion of the issues, and

RESOLVED, that the State Board believes the issue requires the active involvement by the Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California, California State University, and leading engineering and industry environmental experts to ensure water quality regulatory programs are based on peer-reviewed science and economically and environmentally sustainable management practices.

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Food and Agriculture requests the Governor, his administration, and the California State Legislature to maintain a balanced regulatory process that is science based and entails a diligent peer review process.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director

Approved July 27, 2005