

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

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May 7, 2004

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California Environmental Protection Agency
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Attention: Mr. T. Don Tsai, Ph.D. Environmental Specialist III

Subject: NPDES Permit number CA0053651, CI-1822 Bioassessment Monitoring

Dear Mr. Tsai,

During our bioassessment surveys in May and October of 2003, we were not confident that the core-sampling device developed for the bioassessment monitoring of the Santa Clara River Estuary was always collecting the best samples. When station depth exceeded three feet during inundation the suction created by closing the coring valve was not sufficient to keep the sediments in the core barrel as it was pulled from the bottom and through the water column. In most cases a field technician was required to go into the water to seal the bottom of the core by hand to ensure a good sample was collected.

As a result from here forward we intend to employ the use of a Petite Ponar sampler for all future sampling events. The Petite Ponar is a grab sampling device that closes completely after contact with the bottom. This eliminates the problem of losing sample as it is brought through the water column and ensures a more quantitative sample can be obtained. The mouth of the sampler is 15 cm by 15 cm (0.02 m²) and is small enough to be easily carried to the various locations in the Estuary. The consultant currently uses this device on other lake sampling programs with good results.

If you should have additional questions, please contact me at 677-4131.

Sincerely,



Dan Pfeifer
Wastewater Superintendent

cc: Don Davis, Utilities Manager