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March 27, 2008

Ms. Judy Colvin
Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Via Email: mweo@water.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment -- Draft Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Dear Ms. Colvin:

California Alliance for Golf (CAG) is a California non-profit corporation which functions as a trade association representing the golf industry in this state. Our constituents include nationally prominent golf associations in Northern and Southern California representing more than 300,000 individual members and more than 900 golf courses.

Golf courses are large water users. Our constituents are current and potential end-users and customers for recycled water. We estimate that about 25% of golf courses in California currently depend on recycled water for the majority of their irrigation needs. They see increased use of recycled water as critical to continuing public approval and growth of the golf industry.

We have worked with the California section of the Water Reuse Association (WRA), largely composed of agencies that supply recycled water to our constituents. We are familiar with WRA written comments regarding this proposed model ordinance and we agree with their comments. Similarly, we agree with the separate written comments submitted by two of our constituents: the Northern California Golf Association and Irrigation & Turfgrass Services (Mike Huck). Their comments specify technical reasons supporting a strong need to modify the current draft to make it consistent with policy objectives of the State Water Board, the Department of Public Health and the Water Code.

Stated most broadly, our constituents and colleagues are concerned that the draft ordinance puts users of recycled water at a disadvantage to users of potable water for irrigation, contrary to the recognized policy need to create incentives which will increase the use of recycled water.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bouchier, Executive Director

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