



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
Director

**RECEIVED**

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

February 22, 2006

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EAST BAY DISCHARGERS  
AUTHORITY

Mr. Chuck Weir  
Tri-TAC Chair  
East Bay Dischargers Authority  
2651 Grant Avenue  
San Lorenzo, California 94580

Dear Mr. Weir:

Thank you for your letter to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) expressing concerns about the water quality impacts of Samsung's "Silver Wash" washing machine. This washing machine is currently classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a pesticide device, although it is designed to release silver ions during each washing cycle.

We have contacted U.S. EPA regarding the registration status of this machine and the rationale for its designation as a pesticide device. We have been told that U.S. EPA is now taking a second look at the registration status, and they have sent information to their general counsel to determine if registration as a pesticide will be required. This decision should be made by late February or early March of this year.

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. We understand the concerns that Publicly Owned Treatment Works have regarding the discharge of silver ions and the potential to exceed effluent limits.

Sincerely,

Tobi Jones, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director  
Registration and Health Evaluation Division  
(916) 445-3984

