



Groundwater Resources Association
OF CALIFORNIA

President
James Carter
EMAX Laboratories, Inc.

Vice President
Martin Steinpress
Montgomery Watson Harza

Secretary
Paul Dorey
Vista Irrigation District

Treasurer
Jim Jacobs
*FAST-TEK Engineering
Support Services*

Assistant Treasurer
David Von Aspern
*Wallace • Kuhl &
Associates, Inc.*

Immediate Past President
Timothy K. Parker
*California Department
of Water Resources*

Directors

David Abbott
Todd Engineers

Judy L. Bloom
U.S. EPA

Susan Garcia
Educator

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert
Luhdorff & Scalmanini

Thomas M. Johnson
LFR Levine Fricke

Brian Lewis
California EPA

Tom Mohr
*Santa Clara Valley Water
District*

Scott Slater
Hatch and Parent

Robert Van Valer
Roscoe Moss Company

Executive Director
Kathy C. Snelson

March 4, 2002

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: COMMITMENT ON MtBE PHASEOUT

Dear Governor Davis:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA), the state's largest group of groundwater professionals dedicated to the effective management and protection of groundwater resources.

The magnitude of the threat posed by MtBE to water resources is unprecedented. MtBE has been detected in groundwater at thousands of gasoline stations across the state. Unfortunately, MtBE has also been detected in private and water supply wells in Santa Monica, South Lake Tahoe, and scores of other communities across the state. As professionals well positioned to observe the enormous magnitude of impacts from the use of MtBE in California's gasoline, we urge you to uphold your 1999 commitment to phase out this gasoline oxygenate by December 31, 2002.

We are very concerned that the consultant for the California Energy Commission (CEC) recommends extending the MtBE phase-out to December 31, 2005. With powerful oil and MtBE interests pressuring for a deadline extension, it appears that the threat to California's most valuable resource, water, will again be forgotten. Each gasoline facility with MtBE is a threat to water resources and drinking water sources due to the significant potential for spills and undetected releases, and MtBE's unique characteristics. The undisputed and continuing threat to our water resources and the staggering costs to cleanup MtBE contamination dictate adherence to the original phase-out schedule.

In your 1999 Executive Order, you outlined eleven tasks designed to track the progress of state agencies in their efforts to implement the Executive Order. You ordered that a

The Honorable Gray Davis
March 4, 2002
Page 2

timetable be developed by the CEC for the removal of MtBE from gasoline at the earliest possible date, but not later than December 31, 2002. The timetable was to be reflective of the CEC studies and ensure adequate supply and availability of gasoline for California consumers. Clearly, the CEC has failed to live up to its responsibility not only to you as Governor but also to all Californians.

GRA endorsed your March 25, 1999 decision to phase out MtBE and recognized you for your work and leadership in addressing MtBE with its **KEVIN J. NEESE** Award. The Award recognizes significant accomplishment by a person or entity that fosters the understanding, development, protection and management of groundwater. Further, on January 17, 2000, GRA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution renewing its request for an immediate ban on the fuel additive MtBE in California.

The Board of Directors reaffirms the need to uphold the original December 31, 2002 deadline. GRA is on the forefront of understanding the severity of MtBE impacts to California's imperiled water resources, and its member are among the key players in developing solutions for mitigating MtBE contamination. If GRA can be of any assistance to your quest to keep California's water safe and clean, I can be reached at (310) 618-8889, ext. 105 or through the GRA office at (916) 446-3626.

Sincerely,

Jim Carter, President
Groundwater Resources Association of California