

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE
LADY NITTANY LIONS WOMEN'S
RUGBY TEAM FOR CLINCHING
THE NATIONAL TITLE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Penn State alumnus to congratulate the Lady Lions women's rugby team for clinching the national title. Their win this year marks the second consecutive national title and represents the team's first back-to-back titles in the program's history.

The Lady Lions defeated the Stanford Cardinals 24-7, overcoming such hardships as their lack of home field advantage and Stanford's domineering offense. The victory has drawn praise from such people as Graham Spanier, president of Penn State, and Jonathan Griffen, Stanford coach, who described them as "a national powerhouse" and "unbeatable for the next 15 years."

Deven Owsiany, a humble and skilled athlete and a rising senior at Penn State, was named the game's Most Valuable Player. As a star member of the team, Owsiany consistently lauds the dedication, camaraderie and attentiveness of her teammates. Her defensive efforts, along with the efforts of her teammates, allowed Penn State to hold the Cardinals scoreless until the last 3 minutes of the game.

Victories such as this one attest to the spirit of our youth and their potential to do great things. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish them luck in using their tough backline to defend the national title next year.

□ 2300

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 433, the McGovern-Obey amendment, I mistakenly recorded my vote as a "no." My intention was to record my vote as a "yes."

WATER QUALITY

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Department of Interior and the California Department of Water Resources announced an increase in water allocation to farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. Our efforts to press the administration for more water is producing results and is already flowing to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

But our fight for our valley's jobs and economy is far from over. Regulations that restrict the flow of water to

our valley must be revised. I am pleased that the administration has announced its intention to revise and integrate the two biological opinions that single out valley agriculture for degrading the delta when we know that this simply is not true. All factors affecting the health of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta must be taken into account as we move forward, including predation of invasive species and other water quality factors.

I would like to submit a letter for the RECORD from the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board that confirms the need to address water quality issues. This includes the dumping of pollutants, such as ammonia and toxic urban run-off and the impact of power plants on the ecosystem, among other things. We will win this fight, and common sense will prevail. Recognizing all of the factors impacting the delta will allow more water to flow to the valley and the rest of California.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2010.

CHARLES R. HOPPIN,
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board,
Sacramento, CA.

KATHERINE HART,
Chair, Central Valley Regional Water Quality
Control Board, Rancho Cordova, CA.

DEAR CHAIRS HOPPIN AND HART: We are writing to request that the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board take immediate action to address ammonia discharges from wastewater facilities into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

As you are aware, we have long held that the single focus of regulatory agencies on water exports is misguided in that it overlooks other key stressors that contribute to the decline of fisheries in the Delta. The effect of this single focus is to punish farmers, farmworkers and communities in the San Joaquin Valley at a tremendous impact to state's economy, and in the end the fish are no better off.

Two recent studies point to Sacramento's wastewater as a significant cause behind the declining fish populations in the Delta. One study, authored by Patricia Glibert of the University of Maryland, concludes that the Delta's environmental problems are more likely tied to wastewater pollution than to water diversions, indicating that increased ammonia in Sacramento wastewater has disrupted algae production in the Delta, which rippled up the food chain to compromise fish species. Another study by Inge Werner, a toxicologist at UC Davis, concluded that threatened Delta smelt may be harmed by exposure to ammonia at levels below federal limits and that longterm exposure could reduce smelt growth and feeding activity, which would ultimately affect their breeding success.

These studies cry out for immediate action by the responsible regulatory agencies. We understand that the Regional Board has renewed Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's wastewater discharge permit annually without substantive review since it expired in 2005. As the single largest wastewater discharger in the Delta, it is crucial that the Regional Board conducts a full and immediate review of the District's permit and that the Regional Board conditions any renewal upon upgrading the sewage treatment system to a tertiary system. Tertiary systems have been installed throughout San Joaquin Valley communities as a result of regulations imposed by the Regional Board

in order to improve water quality. We find it incongruous that the very board that has imposed tertiary treatment requirements on communities in the San Joaquin Valley, including Stockton, Modesto, Turlock and Fresno, has failed to impose similar requirements on the Sacramento District.

These studies confirm that ammonia wastewater discharges are a large part of the problem in the Delta. Reducing ammonia discharges needs to be part of the solution, along with the other key factors that are contributing to the environmental decline in the Delta. We call upon the Regional Board to take immediate action to correct this problem.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress.
DENNIS CARDOZA,
Member of Congress.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER
QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,
Rancho Cordova, CA, June 24, 2010.

Congressman JIM COSTA,
U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.
Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA,
U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN COSTA AND CARDOZA: Thank you for your letter addressed to State Board Chair Charles Hoppin and Central Valley Water Board Chair Kate Hart, dated June 9, 2010, concerning ammonia discharges into and affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We appreciate your interest in this issue and look forward to working with you—and all interested parties—as we pursue real solutions for the problems facing the Delta. This letter is being sent over my signature instead of Ms. Hart's because your letter specifically addressed the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES permit which is a pending item before the Central Valley Water Board. Chair Hoppin's response will be sent to you under separate cover.

As you know, the California Water Boards have been aggressively engaged in this topic for several years. The boards have undertaken, sponsored, or participated in several studies to examine the acute and chronic toxicity associated with elevated levels of ammonia/ium to the Delta ecosystem. Some of these studies have focused specifically on toxicity with respect to Federally and State-Listed endangered and threatened species. The studies are designed to determine if elevated ammonia levels may be inhibiting the food web upon which pelagic and salmonid species of the Delta depend. Some of those studies are being concluded, while others are ongoing.

The Central Valley Water Board anticipates conducting a public hearing in December 2010 to consider a permit renewal for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Regional Water Board staff has met frequently with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and many other stakeholders to evaluate the impacts of the discharge. Agencies using downstream waters have been active participants in these meetings. In considering the available information and preparing for the hearing, Regional Water Board staff developed issue papers on human health and aquatic toxicity and circulated them for public review and comment. The issue papers help identify concerns, crystallize issues, and provide information to assist the permitting process and to educate stakeholders.

Our evolving understanding of the myriad stressors affecting the Delta will be a key issue in the Central Valley Water Board's consideration of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant permit. The Central Valley Water Board will do everything it reasonably can to complete this