

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 76-18

STATEMENT REGARDING REGULATION OF
AGRICULTURAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGES

WHEREAS:

1. Agriculture is a vital segment of California's economy and provides substantial benefits to its citizens;
2. Agriculture utilizes a substantial portion of California's freshwater resources. In specific instances discharges of agricultural wastewater result in water quality problems which may adversely affect agricultural and other uses of water;
3. Both the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act mandate a comprehensive water quality control program, including appropriate management of agricultural wastewater discharges to the waters of the United States;
4. Because of the variety of hydrologic, geologic, and climatological factors, it is impracticable to develop a uniform mechanism for the management of agricultural wastewater discharges;
5. The technology and management techniques for minimizing the water quality effects of agricultural wastewater discharges are in the developmental stage;
6. Many techniques for minimization of the water quality effects may require new institutional and financial arrangements;
7. The State Board stated to the National Commission on Water Quality on January 10, 1976, the following:

"The potential costs associated with agricultural return water quality control can be staggering, as pointed out in the draft report. Therefore, any control program must be carefully examined and formulated. In California, we feel that solutions to water quality problems resulting from agricultural discharge problems will require new institutional and financial arrangements which must be approached carefully. In terms of water quality, we believe there is adequate time to be deliberate. Some sort of governmental financial assistance may be necessary.