

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 77-6

ADOPTION OF INTERIM WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR 1977
SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA AND SUISUN MARSH

WHEREAS:

1. It is the responsibility of the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate the activities and factors which affect or may affect the quality of the waters of the State in order to attain the highest water quality which is reasonable, considering all demands being made and to be made on those waters, and the beneficial uses involved.
2. It is now clear that 1976 and 1977 will be the most severe two-year drought in California's recorded history. In 1976 below normal precipitation was prevalent throughout the state and by the fall of 1976 many large Central Valley reservoirs had been drawn down to very low levels. By early February 1977, precipitation for this year was less than 30% of normal in most areas tributary to these reservoirs and there is no indication that the current situation will improve.
3. Immediate action must be taken by the State Board to help mitigate the impact of the drought on beneficial uses of Delta waters throughout the State.
4. The schedule for development of the comprehensive long range water quality control plan for the Delta and Suisun Marsh, currently underway, will not allow the Board to consider its adoption until late 1977.
5. The State Board, prompted by severity of the drought and the need to promulgate emergency dry year water quality objectives for 1977, held a special hearing on January 20 and 21, 1977, at which time testimony was received from interested persons on possible measures to mitigate the impact of the drought.
6. The Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have indicated that during 1977 there will be a complete curtailment of surplus water deliveries and that substantial curtailments in delivery of firm contract water will be imposed, if there is no substantial improvement in water supply conditions.
7. The draft interim water quality control plan was distributed for public review on January 27, 1977, and has been revised in accordance with the Board members' comments, as well as appropriate comments received from the public.

8. The adoption of an interim water quality control plan is necessary to help mitigate an emergency and as such is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21,000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 21080 of the Public Resources Code, Section 15071(c) of the State EIR guidelines (California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3), and Sections 2713(c), Subchapter 17, Chapter 3, Title 23, California Administrative Code.

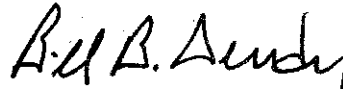
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Board adopts the Interim Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh in accordance with Section 13170 of the Water Code with the understanding that identified actions set forth in Chapter V are recommendations to be taken under consideration by the appropriate agencies.
2. That adoption of the Interim Plan does not mandate the construction of facilities or mandate activities outside of the State Board's jurisdiction.
3. That the State Board does not intend to affect negotiations among various Delta water agencies and the state and federal governments regarding agreements on water quality and water quantity in the Delta by adoption of the Interim Plan.
4. That the Interim Plan represents the most recent policy statement of the State Board on the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
5. That the Interim Plan includes all necessary elements of water quality control plans in accordance with Sections 13241 and 13242 of the Water Code and federal requirements.
6. That the Interim Plan will be in effect only until the end of calendar year 1977 and supersedes the Basin Plans to the extent of any conflict with specific water quality objectives.
7. That adoption of the water quality objectives in the Interim Plan should not be construed as representing final action by the State Board on water quality objectives for the Delta and Suisun Marsh and that water quality objectives will be modified under the State Board's Phase II hearing on its comprehensive Delta Plan.
8. That the Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of the Interim Water Quality Control Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-500).

CERTIFICATION

The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that there is no state mandate for a new program or increased level of service on any unit of local government as a result of the foregoing resolution because such resolution is not an executive regulation pursuant to the Revenue and Taxation Code, Section 2209.

The undersigned, Executive Officer of the State Water Resources Control Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on February 8, 1977.



Bill B. Dendy
Executive Officer