

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION 79-43

ADOPTION OF THE STAFF REPORT "OXNARD PLAIN
GROUNDWATER STUDY: WATER CODE SECTION 2100"

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Resolution No, 78-35 on June 15, 1978, directing staff of the Division of Water Rights to commence an investigation into the degradation of the Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin in Ventura County due to seawater intrusion.
2. The staff of the Division of Water Rights completed the report entitled "Oxnard Plain Groundwater Study" in March 1979,
3. The staff report found that, despite local efforts, seawater intrusion into the Oxnard Plain is continuing and now underlies more than 20 square miles of the Oxnard Plain.
4. The State Board held a Workshop in Oxnard on April 30, 1979, based on the staff recommendation contained in the report.
5. The further intrusion of seawater into the Oxnard Plain presents a serious threat to the groundwater quality of the Oxnard Plain which should not be allowed to continue.
6. A solution to halt further intrusion of seawater must be agreed upon and steps taken toward implementation of that solution as soon as possible.
7. The local agencies should take the lead in determining and implementing an appropriate solution.
8. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors indicated its willingness to take a leadership role in developing and coordinating a solution to the seawater intrusion problem.
9. Implementation of a physical solution, such as the Improved Vern Freeman Diversion, would impose financial burdens on local agencies and may require some State or Federal assistance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the State Water Resources Control Board intends to pursue action according to Section 2100 of the Water Code as described below in Items 1 and 2. The State Board prefers a locally developed solution, however, and therefore, encourages and supports local efforts as indicated by Items 3 through 5 below.


1. The State Water Resources Control Board adopts the staff report entitled "Oxnard Plain Groundwater Study", dated March 1979, and supports recommendation that the State Board hold a hearing on September 28, 1979. This hearing will be held in accordance with Water Code Section 2101(a).

2. The State Board directs staff to serve notice of such hearing as provided in Section 6066 of the Government Code, and mail a copy of said notice to each producer (pumper) of groundwater from the Upper Aquifer System of the Oxnard Plain Basin.
3. The State Board, in order to foster the development of a locally developed solution directs staff to work with local agencies and requests that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors accept, by formal resolution, the overall responsibility for solving the seawater intrusion problem. This responsibility is to be carried out by the following actions.
 - a. Adoption of a detailed schedule of all actions, including backup alternative actions, to solve the problem. The schedule will include actions on:
 - o The Improved Vern Freeman Diversion
 - o Reclamation and reuse;
 - o The well moratorium; and
 - o Any other action necessary to assure solving the problem including actions by State and Federal agencies.
 - b. Formal periodic certification to the State Board that the schedule is being maintained.
 - c. Formal adoption of a coordinated organization of entities in the County to carry out the actions on the schedule. Formal agreement to carry out actions as set forth in the schedule must be secured from each local implementing entity prior to this adoption.
4. In order to expedite consideration of the merit and funding potential of the Improved Vern Freeman Diversion, the State Board requests that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors undertake the following detailed elements of the actions described in 3. above, immediately,
 - a. Preparation by the County, in conjunction with the United Water Conservation District, of an operations procedure for the proposed Improved Vern Freeman Diversion which shows how the project will stop the seawater intrusion. The operations analysis should be based on historical flows in the Santa Clara River, subsurface hydrologic conditions in the Oxnard Plain Basin, and all demands on the system.
 - b. Development by the County of institutional arrangements required to guarantee utilization of the operations procedure as specified in item 3.a. above.
 - c. Preparation of an analysis by the County of the financial feasibility of the Improved Vern Freeman Diversion, including details of the mechanism by which water users will fund construction and operation of the facilities.
 - d. Identification by the County of a mechanism for developing and implementing an improved seawater monitoring network to determine the effectiveness of the Improved Vern Freeman Diversion.
 - e. Submittal by the County, within 45 days, of a time schedule for accomplishing Items 4.a., 4.b., 4.c., and 4.d. described above, as well as, an outline of the countywide institutional arrangements to implement these specific items.

5. The State Board directs the staff to make a recommendation regarding the merit and possible funding of the Improved Vern Freeman Diversion within 60 days after receipt of Items 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Executive Director 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 May 17, 1979.


Larry F. Walker
Executive Director