

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 80-13

DIRECTING THE DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS TO MONITOR LOCAL ACTIONS
IN CORRECTING THE DEGRADATION OF THE OXNARD PLAIN GROUNDWATER BASIN
IN VENTURA COUNTY DUE TO SEAWATER INTRUSION

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (Board), in accordance with Water Code Section 2101(a), held a hearing in Oxnard on October 11, 1979 to determine the need for a Board initiated lawsuit to correct the seawater intrusion problem in the Oxnard aquifer of the Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin.
2. The County of Ventura received from EPA a 208 grant to continue development of a plan to correct the seawater intrusion problem.
3. The County's 208 Plan is a major part of the "Calendar of Actions for Oxnard Plain Seawater Intrusion Control."
4. By letter of January 8, 1980 Ventura County and United Water Conservation District (United) submitted further refinements to the "Calendar of Actions".
5. Major elements of the "Calendar of Actions" are (a) an improved Freeman Diversion, (b) additional pumping from the Fox Canyon aquifer, (c) a pumping trough pipeline, and (d) a 10,700 acre-foot per annum (afa) reduction in pumping from the Oxnard aquifer and (e) wastewater reclamation.
6. The refined plan is expected to produce a combined net benefit of 12,100 afa in the Oxnard aquifer, while the current overdraft is estimated to be about 8,400 afa.
7. Analysis by the State Board staff indicates that the presently proposed mid-term actions may not be sufficient to stop seawater intrusion.
8. United, during the drought water years of 1975-76 and 1976-77, allocated 48.4 and 43.2 percent respectively of total diversion at the Freeman Diversion for delivery to Pleasant Valley County Water District (Pleasant Valley).
9. United is required to deliver to Pleasant Valley under its contract a minimum of only 12.22% of total Freeman diversions over a two-year period. Additional diversions above the 12.22% minimum during the drought years could have been used to recharge Oxnard Plain aquifers.
10. A new procedure for allocating water diverted at the Freeman Diversion known as the "Criteria of Operation", will be adopted by United on or before April 7, 1980.

11. The County Board of Supervisors plans to adopt the "Criteria of Operation" by June 30, 1980.
12. United has requested a 50 percent State grant to build the improved Freeman Diversion. The Board will decide what, if any, funding will be available for the project in June 1980.
13. United plans to select a financial plan for the Freeman Diversion immediately following action by the Board on the grant application.
14. The County Board of Supervisors, by June 30, 1980, plans to adopt a decision identifying specific wells to be removed from service and selecting the means to remove these wells from service. Pumping restrictions may be voluntary or be imposed by local adjudication.
15. The Board is concerned that a long-range plan has not been developed to stop groundwater mining of the lower aquifer system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Water Resources Control Board does direct and authorize the Division of Water Rights to assign staff to the task of monitoring local actions and decisions in correcting the seawater intrusion problem in the Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin.
2. That the Division report to the Board in August 1980 on the progress and problems, if any, of local agencies toward controlling seawater intrusion.
3. That the Board's decision not to institute a Section 2100 action at this time should not be inferred as a tacit approval of Ventura County's current 208 planning effort. Board consideration of current 208 planning tasks will be addressed under a separate proceeding.
4. That the October 11, 1979 hearing be continued until September 30, 1980.

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 March 20, 1980.


Executive Director