

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 80- 71

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL
PLAN FOR THE NORTH LAHONTAN BASIN (6A)

WHEREAS:

1. It is the responsibility of the State Board and the nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, to formulate and adopt water quality control plans (basin plans) for all areas within the State.
2. Basin plans consist of designations for the waters within specified areas of (1) beneficial uses to be protected; (2) water quality objectives; and (3) a program of implementation needed for achieving water quality objectives.
3. Section 13243 of the Water Code provides that a basin plan may specify certain conditions or areas where the discharge of waste, or certain types of waste, will not be permitted.
4. Section 13245 of the Water Code provides that the State Board must approve all basin plans and revisions thereof before they become effective.
5. The State Board, in Order No. WQ 79-22, directed the Regional Board to review and update, as necessary, those portions of the North Lahontan Basin Plan which concern the Truckee River and Little Truckee River Hyrdologic Units.
6. The Regional Board, after extensive public review, adopted Resolution No. 80-4 on June 26, 1980, which amended portions of the North Lahontan Basin Plan.
7. The Basin Plan amendments adopted by the Regional Board provide generally for changes in water quality objectives and in the implementation program and include the following:
 - a. Finding that nitrate nitrogen is the most critical controllable factor regarding biostimulation of the Truckee River, the amendments establish nitrate nitrogen objectives at locations on the Truckee River.
 - b. The amendments reiterate the prohibition on the use of the various community treatment facilities which were replaced by the regional treatment facility completed in 1978 near the City of Truckee.

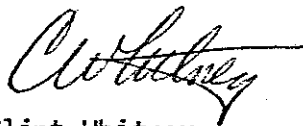
- c. The amendments establish a prohibition of discharge from individual waste disposal facilities such as septic tank/leachfield systems in new subdivisions and in some existing subdivisions in the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit above the confluence with the Little Truckee River. This prohibition was accompanied by a finding that such discharges would result in a violation of water quality objectives.
 - d. The amendments include revisions to the implementation program predicated on the expansion of the regional wastewater treatment facility.
 - e. The amendments include an assessment of the environmental impacts of the Basin Plan amendments and possible mitigation measures.
8. Section 13283 of the Water Code requires the State Board, when reviewing a prohibition on the discharge of waste from disposal systems utilizing subsurface disposal, to preliminarily review possible alternatives necessary to protect water quality.
 9. Pursuant to Section 13283, the State Board finds that the long-range alternative to the prohibition against discharges from certain individual disposal systems is the expansion of the regional treatment facility. In the interim, the State Board further finds that no viable alternatives presently exist except where appropriate exemptions from the prohibition can be made.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the State Board approves the amendments to the water quality control plan for the North Lahontan Basin (6A), as adopted by Regional Board Resolution No. 80-4, with the following understandings:
 - a. While the prohibition against discharges from certain individual disposal systems is appropriate, the Regional Board is directed to develop prohibition exemption criteria for those areas of the prohibition zone where a community collection system alternative may not be appropriate or feasible.
 - b. The Basin Plan's environmental assessment having identified growth-inducing impacts of the amendments, future waste discharge requirements of the Regional Board must mitigate, where feasible and within the Regional Board's authority, environmental impacts identified in the Basin Plan or in other applicable documents such as the Tahoe 208 Plan scheduled for adoption in the near future.

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 October 16, 1980.



Clint Whitney
Executive Director